MOON LANDING ANNIVERSARY, PGS 6, 17

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TORONTO • MONDAY, JULY 20, 2009
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Celebrity pg 29

Madonna pays visit to injured workers

FocusOn FirstNations

Metro Canada continues its focus on First Nations and Aboriginal news, community issues, arts and culture as part of a special series leading up to the Assembly of First Nations convention, Tuesday to Thursday, in Calgary.

- Today
- Unique set of urban challenges, page 7
- Men dominate AFN chief candidates, page 12
- Top five election issues, page 12
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- Calls for public inquiry into missing women, page 14
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- Bringing culture to schools, page 21
- New surge of Aboriginal talent, page 25

Sports pg 20

Stewart Cinks Tom

Canada pg 11

White employees preferred?

Workology pg 23

Assistant can help organize

"It's time to overcome the gap of understanding among people in this country."
Shawn Atleo

"We should be more inclusive of all our citizens, no matter where they are."
John Beaucage

"We need more and more First Nations people at all the decision-making tables."
Perry Bellegarde

"I've tapped into the anger and frustration ... Watch me, as Trudeau said."
Terrance Nelson

"We can do anything we want ... we have thousands and thousands of brilliant Indian people."
Bill Wilson

Seeking united voice

Assembly of First Nations in Calgary to vote for new national chief

FocusOn FirstNations

LAURA EGGERTSON
for Metro Canada

More than 600 chiefs of First Nations communities across Canada gather in Calgary tomorrow to choose their national leader, in an election whose outcome will steer the course of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal relations for the next four years.

The National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations represents all of the 300,755 status Indians living on reserves, and also strives to advocate for the nearly 400,000 living off-reserve, largely in urban centres.

As an advocacy organization, the AFN is in the often difficult role of attempting to give one voice to the myriad views among First Nations communities on vital issues ranging from poverty alleviation to economic development, land claims, the legacy of residential schools and self-government.

That single voice — even if it cannot possibly represent all Aboriginal views — is the one the federal government hears. That's why the top job matters.

Shawn Atleo and Bill Wilson, both from British Columbia, Saskatchewan's Perry Bellegarde, Ontario's John Beaucage and Manitoba's Terrance Nelson are all vying to be the ninth chief to lead since the AFN was founded in 1968.

"The national chief sets the tone of the relationship between Aboriginal Peoples and Canada," says David Newhouse, the chair of indigenous studies at Trent University in Peterborough.

That's also the reason style is as crucial as substance when it comes to a national chief. Previous leaders have ranged from those favouring a confrontational approach to others prepared to work within the system, governed by the much-maligned Indian Act.

The federal government doesn't always want to hear what the AFN has to say, but it ignores the organization "at its peril," points out Newhouse, a Mohawk from Six Nations of the Grand River. Governments have had to back down from critical pieces of legislation because they couldn't win AFN support.

The next leader also carries the critical responsibility of ensuring the AFN is relevant for the next generation of First Nations youth — their numbers are growing at a rate 3½ times faster than that of the general Canadian population.

MORE COVERAGE, PAGES 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 21, 25

This is a creation by Ottawa-based artist Tom Hogan, entitled United. Hogan's paintings reflect both his knowledge of Aboriginal mythology and his personal journey. For more on Hogan, see page 3. More coverage, pages 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 21, 25.

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Cops warn businesses to call banks for cheque purchases
Toronto Police were searching for a woman who used a fraudulent cheque to buy a $15,000 digital recording console from a Queen Street West music store. Det. Dave Barwell says stores that take cheques should personally call the customer's bank to make sure the money is really there. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

U can now txt msg crime tips to Peel police

The public can now inform police about unsolved crimes, or alert them to crimes being planned by text messaging "Peel, followed by the tip" to CRIMES (274637), the force announced Friday. Peel Crime Stoppers said texting can be used as "a new tool for fighting crime." There are 21.5 million mobile phone users in Canada. Most can send text messages. Police are hoping this move will turn young, tech-savvy individuals into tipsters. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FocusOn FirstNations

On the Cover

The cover art on today's edition of Metro, called United, was created by Ottawa-based artist Tom Hogan, right. Born in Sioux Lookout in 1955, Hogan is a self-taught Woodland style artist. His vibrant paintings reflect both his knowledge of Aboriginal mythology and his personal journey — one that includes being abandoned as a child, addiction, ill-health, and homelessness. Each of his works are a testament to his spirit's ability to overcome the often difficult realities of life. More about Hogan and his work can be found at tomhogan.ca.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Two Canadian astronauts make history aboard the International Space Station at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video A Vancouver race track plays host to a dash of the dachshunds at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Friday, July 17
Lotto Super 7: 12, 13, 31, 33, 37, 44, 46 Bonus 34
Saturday, July 18
Lotto 6/49: 2, 4, 15, 39, 45 & 49 Bonus 37
Sunday, July 19
Ontario Pick 3: 2 0 3; **Ontario Pick 4:** 9 3 0 3
Encore: 6525650;
Daily Keno: 2, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 21, 23, 24, 32, 34, 46, 49, 53, 55, 58, 61, 64, 66
These results are not official.

Residents rejigging refuse

But solutions becoming thin as strike enters 2nd month

T.O.CivicStrike

As partially functioning, fully stinky Toronto lurches its way into the second month of a civic workers' strike, weary residents including Chris Christodoulou have adjusted, repeatedly, but are running out of ingenious workarounds.

For the past 29 days, the owner of the popular restaurant Pan on the Danforth has stockpiled his business's organic waste and recyclables in his storefront, but his stack of cardboard is taller than he is, and he's out of room.

And then there's the trash. The Greektown business improvement area started a pickup plan for its members, but when that turned out not to be enough for Christodoulou, he started paying a private contractor $200 every three days to take the trash away.

"It's coming to the point when you feel like throwing the bags in the middle of Danforth," he said.

Staff at Percy Waters Florist nearby have coped by making frequent trips to deposit cardboard at a recycling plant in Scarborough.

"It's a pain, but you get used to it," said co-owner Carmen Visconti.

Outdoor athletic associations have been working up a sweat juggling their schedules. The Toronto Baseball Association has somehow managed to avoid cancelling any games, thanks in part to a handful of strike breakers who cross picket lines to mow city lawns.

But that Band-Aid solution could soon peel off, as temporary dump sites and out-of-control grass render some parks unusable.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

About 30 people from Centre of Gravity meditate yesterday afternoon overlooking the temporary garbage site in Christie Pits. They chose to mediate next to the dump site in hope of gaining a better understanding of the strike and a more creative response to it, free of a political viewpoint.

Wedding not considered 'life-and-death' priority situation

VISAS At least 20 wedding guests aren't coming, and the honeymoon is over.

Katie Murphy and Jose Gonzalez have prepared for their Aug. 15 wedding in Toronto for more than a year, but family and close friends from Mexico — including the groom's parents and siblings — will now miss the special occasion because of new visa requirements imposed by the federal government.

The guests, who booked flights months ago, have been scrambling to put together documents for their visa applications at the Canadian embassy since last Monday, when Immigration Minister Jason Kenney made the surprise announcement about the visa restrictions for Mexican and Czech travellers to curb what he called mounting "bogus" refugee claims from the countries.

Jose Gonzalez, Katie Murphy

"Jason Kenney is our wedding crasher," sighed Murphy, 30, a Toronto high school teacher. "I am sad that Jose's parents are not going to see their only son getting married."

It is too late to cancel the wedding arrangements made long ago.

To make matters worse, the couple must also cancel their two-week honeymoon to Barcelona, because Gonzalez would need a visa to return to Canada from Spain and there is no promise it would be granted.

Gonzalez, also 30, said they have no choice but to cancel, even though they have already paid for the $4,500 trip.

Canadian officials told Murphy they would prioritize visa application processing based on urgency, but attending a wedding, though important, is not a life-and-death situation.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Adoptive parents demand help

BANKRUPTCY Dozens of would-be parents are demanding the Ontario government step in and complete the work of a now bankrupt Cambridge adoption agency.

The prospective parents are holding meetings across the country today to figure out what to do after Kids Link International Adoption Agency went under last week.

Ingrid Phaneuf, who is organizing the Toronto meeting, says she and her husband paid the agency $14,000 in trust for a baby girl from Ethiopia they were never matched with.

Phaneuf says they plan on coming up with an "action plan" today. The long-term goal, she says, is to meet face-to-face with Deb Matthews, Ontario's minister of children and youth services. Phaneuf, 42, says the parents "don't care about money" and simply want their adoptions to be completed. About 400 families are currently in limbo.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

MUGGING Police seek two suspects after a man was robbed while he sat parked in his car on Sheppard Avenue West and Yatescastle Drive. The victim was in his car at 9:05 p.m. Saturday when two men approached. The man gave up his money and was unharmed. The suspects fled west toward Jane Street. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Woman uses fraudulent cheque

Police are searching for a woman who used a fraudulent cheque to buy a $15,000 digital recording console from a Queen Street West music store. On June 27, the woman purchased the console at Steve's Music Store. She paid using a bank draft that turned out to be fraudulent. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Fundraising practices raising concerns

CITY POLITICS For years, Vaughan regional councillor Mario Ferri has run advertisements in local newspapers, honouring students with the La Rocca Youth Bursary awards.

The awards recognize qualities such as virtue, altruism and generosity. The ads always include a photo of a smiling Ferri, highlighting his role as founder and chair of the La Rocca Memorial Society, named in honour of a Second World War hero from Italy's Sora region.

"I do this because I believe in it," Ferri said of the youth bursaries and another set of volunteer awards he gives out to about 1,200 residents every year in the form of prints of paintings he commissioned. He said it is all about building community spirit. There is no doubt that the awards recognize good work.

But what makes it controversial is the fundraising in the tens of thousands of dollars that he, like other councillors, are legally allowed to conduct for personal causes. In Ferri's case, over the last 10 years he has raised $125,000 for two causes and overseen its distribution.

Conduct

- For Vaughan, talk about a code of conduct comes in the wake of controversy involving expenses of mayor Linda Jackson, pending charges against her over alleged election finance irregularities.

The city's new integrity commissioner, Suzanne Craig, put councillors on notice, saying such fundraising, sometimes from companies that come before council, needs to be addressed.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Preparing for the worst

Health officials put out calm messages as second wave of flu expected

Flu Outbreak

While public health officials are putting out calm messages about the global influenza A (H1N1, also known as swine flu) pandemic — that summer camps are safe, that most illness has been mild — behind the scenes they are preparing for the worst.

TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dr. Allison McGeer, head of infection control at Mount Sinai Hospital and an expert on swine flu, photographed in the bacteriology lab. Public health officials are putting out calm messages about swine flu, but are preparing for the worst.

Pandemic planning requires that officialdom consider all scenarios. And while the best hope is that the H1N1 virus will continue to cause mostly mild illness, though infect many more, the worst fear is that it could follow the same course as the 1918 Spanish flu, which hit with a mild form in the spring, but returned with a vengeance in the fall. It infected one-third of the world and contributed to the deaths of more than 50 million people.

September is the big question mark for public health officials. That's the earliest that the second wave could hit. So public health officials and infection control experts have been changing summer vacation plans and are hunkering down in preparation for the fall. (Toronto is an anomaly because of the civic workers' strike. Pandemic planning is continuing, but at a reduced capacity.)

The problem is no one knows what to expect. Dr. Allison McGeer, a microbiologist and director of infection control at Mount Sinai Hospital, uses the example of a hurricane to explain the conundrum: "There are some pandemics where disease is mild, the equivalent of a hurricane that never quite makes it to force five, blows itself off the Atlantic Ocean and never bothers anybody. And there are some pandemics, like in 1918, that are like hurricane Katrina and do a huge amount of damage."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MORE COVERAGE, PG 11

Teen shot in east end

CRIME When gunshots rang out in front of Gary Silliphant's house yesterday morning he did not expect to open his door to find a teenage boy fighting for his life on the driveway of his neighbour's house.

Silliphant said he heard around five loud explosions in the wee hours of the morning that sent him rushing to find out what was "causing all the commotion" that had several people attending a next door house party taking cover. He said patrons from the party started to assist the youngsters who collapsed outside his neighbour's home, located in the Port Union Rd. and Highway 401 area.

Insp. Randy Carter said Toronto police were called to the house at around 2 a.m. yesterday morning, where officers found the 18-year-old suffering from two gunshot wounds. He died in hospital.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A la cart project brings exotic food to city streets

FOODS On weekdays, Bridgette Pinder gets up at 6 a.m. She makes salads, ensures she has enough water and gas for the day, and cleans her nearly 1,000-pound food cart.

She leaves her Malton house at 9:30 a.m. behind the wheel of her blue van, towing the cart on a trailer. An hour later, she arrives at the southeast corner of Yonge St. and St. Clair Ave., unloads the cart, ties on a white apron and opens for business, ready to sell her jerk chicken wraps.

After 20 years as a social worker, the friendly 52-year-old left her career to join Toronto a la Cart, a city pilot project to bring food more diverse than the traditional hot dog to city streets. She refinanced her house to raise the $50,000 she says she's invested in the project, and to help sustain her and 11-year-old son while she waits for her new business to turn a profit. She says she made the move to get outside and spend more time with people.

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bridgette Pinder with her Caribbean Fusion food cart on the southeast corner of Yonge Street and St. Clair Avenue, serving a jerk chicken fajita with a mango salad.

"I love the community, they've been really warm and embracing," she says.

Toronto a la Cart's eight vendors first hit the streets under two months ago, more than a year and a half after the proposal for bringing diverse food to the streets.

Local fare

- Thai: Pad Thai with fresh rolls (Mel Lastman Square)
- Afghani/Central Asian: Chapli kebabs (Metro Hall)
- Central Asian/Persian: Biryani (Nathan Phillips Square)
- Middle Eastern: Kebab wraps (Queen's Park)

In November 2007, the city proposed borrowing $700,000 to buy 35 carts and lease them to vendors. The idea was eventually withdrawn in the face of criticism that the city was making a financial mistake. A second proposal, in January 2008, to have an independent investor foot the cost of buying the carts, fell through when the city couldn't find an investor. The project in its current form was approved by city council last December.

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Retirement home employee charged with theft
An employee at a Milton retirement home faces nine charges of stealing from a 90-year-old female resident. Natasha Yogeeta Deorajh, 30, of Milton faces five counts of theft under $5,000 and four counts of being unlawfully in a dwelling. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

School's in for summer

Ambitious students forgo vacation for more time in classroom

It used to be a mark of shame: Summer school spelled "flunky." Now, summer school is cool.

Classrooms across Ontario report record numbers of teens choosing to show up bright and early to earn high school credits this July — not because they have flunked a course, but to get a jump on next year.

With all the new programs to help them pass, fewer Ontario students are failing — the dropout rate has fallen to 23 per cent, down nine points in the past six years. Now summer schools are getting a new clientele.

Not, surprisingly, because they can't get a job. This trend seems to be fuelled by academic ambition, rather than boredom.

"We surveyed 35 students and only three said they were here because they couldn't find a job," noted principal Peggy Aitchison, who oversees a range of summer courses at Forest Hill Collegiate.

"Most say they're here to reduce their load next year — and to get a better mark through summer school, because taking just one course allows you more concentration."

Other students say they're turning to summer school to fit in arts and co-op programs for which there is precious little time in the four-year curriculum. There are aspiring actors earning a drama credit as they rehearse their parts for Seussical, the musical (based on Dr. Seuss), while others earn an art credit designing and sewing their own clothes.

Jenny Hanshen, a Grade 12 student at Don Mills Collegiate Institute, is taking math this summer to make room for a course she really wants this fall — economic analysis.

"My year — the graduating class of 2010 — is much more competitive than even the class of 2009, and a lot of people take summer school to get higher marks because they can focus on just one subject," said Hanshen, 16, who is taking advanced functions in mathematics this month at Forest Hill Collegiate.

At the Toronto Catholic District School Board, summer school has seen the biggest increase since the double cohort.

"We have more to offer students now, yet less time for them to take it," said Paul Adams, summer school principal at Brebeuf College School.

"No wonder they're coming to school in summer." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

These Grade 11 students from different schools are taking Grade 12 credits at Forest Hill Collegiate. Front left is Jenny Hanshen and seated opposite is Vivien Dimova. Praneeth Potluri is at top left, with Sandra Kimberg in middle and Ninad Tapas on far right.

"A lot of people take summer school to get higher marks because they can focus on just one subject."
Jenny Hanshen, Grade 12 student

Facebook case may impact similar sites, expert says

PRIVACY Privacy advocates are expecting social networking sites to be more mindful of the use of personal information now that Facebook has to better protect its Canadian users or face possible legal action.

12M Facebook has nearly 12 million Canadian users and 250 million worldwide.

"Facebook is under the microscope," David Fewer of the Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic said.

But MySpace, networking tool Linkedin and Micro blogging site Twitter should all take a look at the implications, said Fewer, whose clinic brought the complaint to the privacy watchdog.

Canada's federal privacy commissioner has said Facebook breaches the country's privacy law by keeping users' personal information indefinitely — even after some members close their accounts.

The privacy issue shouldn't be considered as unique to Canada, said Fewer, acting director of the clinic based at the University of Ottawa.

"It can't be business as usual for social networking after this because business as usual was kind of a wild west approach to privacy," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

PROTEST About 100 placard-waving protesters marched and chanted outside the U.S. consulate Saturday to demand the U.S. government stop lending legitimacy to the coup in Honduras. The Latin American Solidarity Network said the U.S. should cut all aid to the "illegal government" in Honduras and work towards the immediate restoration of democratically elected Manuel Zelaya to the Honduran presidency. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTRE

Man in hospital after workplace accident

A man was taken to hospital yesterday after falling off the roof of a Brampton plaza around noon. Emergency crews were called to the Hurontario Street plaza south of Wexford Road shortly before 12 p.m. after receiving reports of an industrial accident, said Const. Marlene Murphy of Peel police. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canucks put first man on moon

40th anniversary of Apollo landing looks at engineers' contributions

When the world marks the 40th anniversary today of man's first landing on the moon, it will be paying tribute to American ingenuity and what arguably is one of that country's finest moments. But it was one of Canada's proudest moments, too.

Many Canadians are unaware that a group of their countrymen working at NASA was instrumental in delivering the Apollo 11 astronauts to the lunar surface on July 20, 1969 — and getting them safely back home to Earth.

In fact, even before Neil Armstrong's booted feet stepped onto the rocky, crater-pocked surface of the moon, Canadian-made legs on the lunar landing module settled into the satellite's dust first. The splayed legs were produced from

ApolloLanding

light-weight aluminum using a compressible honeycomb design by Quebec's Heroux-DEVTEK, which won the NASA contract.

The landing module was primarily designed by Sarnia-born Owen Maynard, an engineer who worked on the famed Avro Arrow before the federal government under Diefenbaker abruptly cancelled the supersonic jet program in February 1959.

Maynard and about 25 others laid off from Toronto's A.V. Roe aircraft on what was dubbed Black Friday were quickly snapped up by the Americans to help them fulfill then-president John F. Kennedy's 1961 edict that the country land a man on the moon within the decade.

"Canadians contributed a massive amount to the space race and Apollo," says Robert Godwin, a curator for the Canadian Air and Space Museum in Toronto that houses a full-scale replica of the Arrow.

Godwin, who also writes and publishes books on space, said Maynard was among the first — if not the first — to sketch a design for a lunar lander that "ultimately looked very similar to what they actually built."

Maynard, who died in 2000 at age 75, was promoted to chief of systems engineering for the Apollo program and stayed at NASA until after the Apollo 12 crew completed its moon mission in November 1969.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE PG. 17

SUBMITTED TO THE CANADIAN PRESS

Owen Maynard is pictured in this undated handout photo. Today marks the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission and astronaut Neil Armstrong's historic steps on the moon after the lunar module delivered its first human payload to the surface.

Stranded woman seeks court injunction

The lawyer for a woman stripped of her Canadian passport and marooned in Kenya will be in Federal Court today seeking immediate government help.

Suaad Mohamud Haji has been unable to return to her Toronto home since mid-May after Kenyan airport officials said she didn't look like her four-year-old passport picture.

Suaad Mohamud Haji

Despite having other pieces of Canadian photo ID and offering up her fingerprints, the 31-year-old mother was stripped of her passport by Canadian officials and charged with identity fraud by Kenyan police.

Raoul Boulakia wants Mohamud to be issued an emergency passport and flown home at government expense. The situation is urgent because the Somali-born Mohamud has a court date this Friday in Kenya and could face deportation to her lawless native land.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

DROWNING A mother has drowned and two of her daughters are in life-threatening condition after all three were found floating in a hotel swimming pool without vital signs Saturday morning. Later that afternoon, the body of a young Toronto man was found in the Nottawasaga River near Wasaga Beach. Both incidents are a grim reminder of the importance of water safety during the summer months. Naila Yasmin, 43, of Toronto was with her two daughters, 11 and 14, when she drowned at the Best Western Country Squire Resort in Gananoque, Ont. The trio were taken to Kingston General Hospital. Police are investigating the drowning, but do not suspect foul play. Meanwhile, Huronia West OPP identified a body that turned up near the Jacques Landing campground in Wasaga Beach as Nelson Nogaro, 23, of Toronto.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Median age for First Nations people is 24.9
The median age for non-Aboriginal people in Canada is 39.7 years old, while the median age for First Nations people is 24.9 years old, according to Statistics Canada and based on 2006 census numbers. METRO CANADA

Focus On First Nations

Urban challenges are unique

Culture shock for some Aboriginals who move away from reserves

HEATHER BUCHAN
for Metro Toronto

Much of the media coverage of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada centres around those living on reserves. But what about those who live in Canada's urban centres, like Toronto?

There's an estimated 70,000 Aboriginal people living in Toronto today, many of whom face a unique set of challenges when it comes to employment and housing.

Ruby Dreger, the employment manager at Toronto's Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training Centre, believes Aboriginal Peoples arriving in Toronto from remote communities should be treated just like newcomers to Canada.

"They don't know where to go, who to see, what's available," explains Dreger, who is Cree. "English may not be their first language. Some have never been on a bus, they've never been on an escalator. The city is overwhelming."

An estimated 70,000 Aboriginal people live in Toronto today, many of whom face a unique set of challenges when it comes to employment and housing.

She explains that many Aboriginal Peoples arrive in Toronto with the perception that they will be hired the next day, but lack the skills or resources to get hired. That's where Miziwe Biik comes in. The centre provides Aboriginal Peoples (currently, there's 1,200 clients) ranging in age from 14 to 70 with assistance in their job search, free training initiatives, referral to other agencies and social services, along with emotional support and counseling.

"We get people job ready, improve their self-esteem and confidence so they believe they can do whatever they want to do," she says. "The biggest challenges when it comes to employment are lack of education, meaning they probably don't have Grade 12, lack of work experience and lack of self-confidence."

Dreger prefers to focus on today and the future and believes Toronto does offer opportunities, provided you have the right attitude and that's something she believes Miziwe Biik and other Aboriginal agencies in Toronto can offer.

Population has boomed in Toronto

HEATHER BUCHAN
for Metro Toronto

DOWNTOWN Since the 1950s, when large numbers of Aboriginal Peoples began leaving their reserves for cities in an effort to access education and employment, the Aboriginal population in Toronto has grown to an estimated 70,000 people from 200 to 300 people. The majority of Toronto's Aboriginal population live in the downtown core, where there's easy access to public transportation, as many do not have a driver's license.

"We don't have a residential area where we live together and work together," says Ruby Dreger, the employment manager at Toronto's Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training Centre.

"We're spread all over the city."

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Comment

Avoiding summer peril

HineSight

Anne Hines

metronews.ca/hinesight

Ah, mid-July. Time to participate in one of the great pleasures of summer in Canada: Talking about how it isn't winter. Also, time to head to the cottage or campsite for a little relaxation. To help make the most of your time, I present the HineSight Guide to Avoiding Outdoor Dangers.

1. Every summer, a terrible scourge sweeps vacation country, threatening to destroy the well-being of all it comes near. I refer to the dreaded OPC or, as it's commonly called Other People's Children. When our own children run around the campsite, blasting squirt guns and screaming like banshees, they're charming, high spirited imps. When other people's children do this, they are ill-behaved future felons whose parents likely check out 12 grocery items in lines clearly marked "eight." However, it is wrong to wish OPC did not exist. We need them to entertain our own kids while we have a nap.

2. This peril of the northlands comes by many names. It may be Country Sweets, Pine Tree Pies or Little Shop of Lard. Whatever it's called, step in the door and you can practically hear your arteries slamming shut. There's a reason cottage country is full of bakeries. It's an evil plot by aliens intent on destroying humankind by seducing us into consuming fatty treats, thus negating the health benefits of hiking, canoeing or swimming. OK, maybe this sounds a little far fetched, but every morning when I hit that third-cherry-cheese-Danish-of-the-day sugar high, I'm convinced it's true. Bottom line: Stay out of the bakeshops. Then I won't have to wait in line.

3. Alcohol. Sure we've been warned, but many adults still go on vacation and end up foolishly mixing their alcohol. With board games. After one too many beers, it's not uncommon to believe you can buy Park Place with a sub-prime mortgage or that "gzerniq" is an excellent Scrabble word.

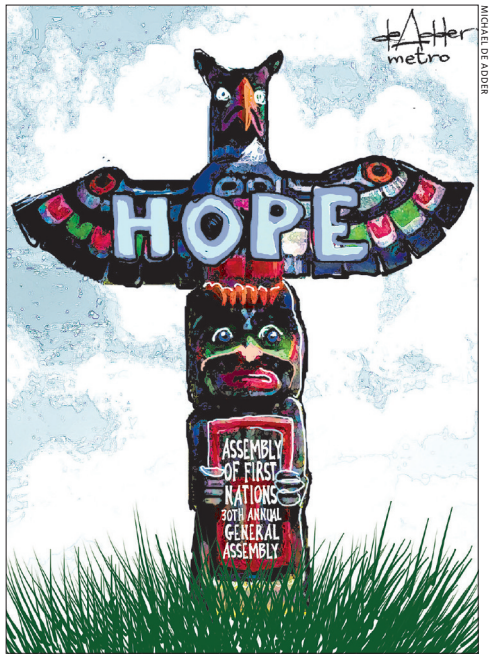
Alcohol mixed with card games is also a no-go. Recently, having enjoyed two gin and tonics, I was convinced I could win a Euchre hand with a fist full of 10s.

My partner, Liz, says she wouldn't have minded, except that we were playing Hearts at the time.

The lesson is clear: If you drink, don't deal.

Follow these suggestions and you'll find life in the wild a little less, well, wild. Next week, camping tips: The top 10 plants you should never use as toilet paper.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Take care using automated dispensers

InTransit

Ed Drass

metronews.ca/intransit

Anyone using the TTC or GO will, at some time or another, need to use an automated fare dispenser. To avoid losing one's money or temper, here are some tips.

When a TTC token machine is out of service, a small red light is supposed to flash. Alas, there may be no indication when the coin acceptor is jammed. If you must buy a single token, put in a quarter and wait. As long as it is automatically returned within 10 seconds, the device is likely fine. Otherwise, I'd pay at the collector booth. If coins jam while at unstaffed entrances, use paper money to buy multiple tokens from the machine — it's a better deal than coins anyway.

But the bill acceptors can be temperamental, too. Worn out notes can gum up the works and five dollar bills are not allowed at all.

TTC chair Adam Giambrone says, "We may purchase more token machines because it may actually take five years to do all the work on automatic fare payments."

The TTC has been criticized for not embracing the provincial "smart card," Presto. One sticking point during the negotiation process has been an implementation cost of more than $200 million for TTC alone. Giambrone also warns that Presto is already "old technology" and a modern system needs to allow fare payment from bank cards or even cellphones — without requiring a special fare card.

For those anxious to use Presto, the province reports, "The full roll out (across GTA and Hamilton) will begin spring 2010 and continue until winter 2011." Some subway stations are included, and details can be found at presto card.ca.

One of many reasons I like my Metropass subscription is not having to line up at a booth or use the TTC's automated pass dispensers. To me, they are not very customer friendly, I have found both the graphics and the angle of the screen to be awkward.

Similarly, I suspect new riders have trouble with GO Transit's current ticket vending machines, particularly the busy screen images and missing prompts (yes, you do have to press OK after your PIN.). Despite these drawbacks, GO reports a transaction is "completed every 30-40 seconds during rush hour."

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday; transit@eddrass.com.

Quick tip

• In my ceaseless quest to help riders keep their tokens, tickets and passes safe from loss, I created a "Trinkets" page at eddrass.com. You'll find links and tips about holders and other items. Suggestions for new products are welcome.

Letters

Resident fuming mad at union workers

Enough is enough! The CUPE striking city workers of Toronto need to get something straight. The city of Toronto is near broke and in fiscal turmoil. If the CUPE strikers think that the city is going to let them walk away with bankable sick days, then they are dreaming.

If they want bankable sick days, they should look within their own union treasury as opposed to picking the already poor pockets of Toronto.

T.O.CivicStrike

I don't know of any company that allows their employees to bank their sick days. Most if not all non-union jobs like my own simply lose their sick days all together including the sick day pay if those days are not used during the yearly fiscal calendar.

The trash is piling up and has become a serious issue. If I was Mayor David Miller, I would consider using the minimal Toronto revenue and simply hire contract workers to take out the trash. Make the union irrelevant.

GEOFFREY DONOVAN, TORONTO

Quote of the Day

"It's been a surreal experience for me. Not only playing one of my favourite courses and a wonderful tournament, but playing against Tom Watson. This stuff doesn't happen. I grew up watching him on TV."

— British Open champion Stewart Cink commenting on playing with Tom Watson. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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New housing for North Bay's low-income residents
Officials have unveiled an affordable housing complex in North Bay for low-income residents. The Girard Complex cost $1.8 million, with a fifth of the cash coming from the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Tory's dad set to cycle

Tory Stafford's father is preparing for a 3,400-kilometre bike ride across the country in honour of his slain daughter. Rodney Stafford leaves Woodstock, Ont., Aug. 2 on a bike ride to Edmonton to raise money for Child Find Ontario.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Are white workers preferred?

Study finds that women, minority groups at a disadvantage

North American customers are more likely to be satisfied with their level of service if it comes from a white male instead of a woman or minority, says a new study.

The research by University of British Columbia professor Karl Aquino found that female and minority employees who exhibited the same behaviours as their white male counterparts were rated lower in anonymous customer feedback surveys.

Aquino, who teaches at UBC's Sauder School of Business, said the results took him and his fellow researchers by surprise.

"We had thought there would be some bias going on in the sense of people who were males or whites would be rated more positively," Aquino said.

"But we didn't anticipate that for performing the same behaviours, the women and minorities would actually be rated lower," he said of the study to be published in the Academy of Management Journal.

The research was conducted in the U.S. and focused on customers in a health maintenance organization, a bookstore, and at golf courses.

Aquino said more than 12,000 patient reports on 113 doctors from the health maintenance organization were analyzed.

19 The percentage of people who gave higher satisfaction ratings to a white male bookstore worker, in comparison to a woman or black male, who gave the same level of service.

What's particularly troubling, he said, is not just that female and minority physicians were rated less favourably for providing similar service, but that the harder they tried, the lower they scored.

"It seemed like doing more actually penalized them," he said.

He said it's possible that white male doctors who exhibited certain behaviours were considered attentive or conscientious while someone who didn't fit the prototype of a doctor was considered overbearing and annoying.

Though the research was conducted south of the border, Aquino said the study's findings can also be applied to Canada because the two countries share so many commonalities.

"Canada, like any other country, has its own groups that are marginalized or viewed as somehow not typical of a particular occupation," he said.

In the bookstore study, university students watched videos of clerks interacting with customers before they were asked to evaluate each employee's performance.

In the golf sample, researchers looked at feedback from more than 3,600 golfers and concluded that clubs with higher rates of female and minority employees were rated less favourably.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two Canadian astronauts make history

Julie Payette

Two Canadian astronauts appeared together for the first time in space aboard the International Space Station, making history yesterday.

Julie Payette and Robert Thirsk, the first two Canadians to be together in space, appeared on a live video feed with a Canadian flag as a backdrop.

Payette arrived at the station Friday as a crew member of the space shuttle Endeavour. Her most recent trip to the space station was 10 years ago.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Evacuated residents watch a wildfire burning on the side of a mountain in Kelowna, B.C., yesterday.

Wildfires force 17,000 from homes in B.C.

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Vancouver

Around 17,000 people have been forced from their homes in West Kelowna as crews battle two out of control wildfires raging in the hot, dry area.

A forest fire near Glen Rosa covering about 350 hectares started on Saturday afternoon.

A second blaze about 10 kilometres away broke out at the Rose Valley Dam later that evening.

So far, at least nine buildings have burned down.

Elise Riedlinger, a fire information officer, said the fires cover roughly 450 hectares combined

And efforts to control them have been hampered by scorching temperatures, strong winds and trees killed by pine beetles.

"It's just very dry conditions throughout the area," said Riedlinger.

"We had quite strong winds that pushed the fire into the larger size at Glen Rosa."

She added that fire is spreading eastward toward Okanagan Lake.

Around 125 firefighters, 10 helicopters, eight air tankers and other heavy equipment from the B.C. Fire Services are being used to manage the two fires because they're so close together.

In the meantime, 6,500 homes have been evacuated and others are on alert in Glenrose, Shannon Woods, West Kelowna, Crystal Springs and Rose Valley.

It's unclear how the fires started, but officials say human activity is suspected because there have been no recent lightning storms.

Controversial private medical clinics may come to Toronto by year's end

HEALTH Less than a year after a private medical clinic opened in Calgary to angry protests, similar "members only" facilities are spreading across the province.

Last September, protesters gathered as the Copeman Clinic opened in Calgary, concerned that they couldn't afford up to $3,900 a year in fees.

Its website promises a location in Toronto in 2009, with other provinces to follow.

Critics say they're taking physicians away from the public system, making it even harder for those who can't afford thousands of dollars a year in membership fees to find a family doctor.

"If patients have to pay a fee to gain access to insured health services, then that's illegal."
Dr. Irfan Dhalla, Toronto physician

But those running the clinics say they enable doctors to give their patients the care they deserve while operating fully within Canada's medicare laws.

"It's obviously extra billing and queue jumping," says David Eggen, executive director of Friends of Medicare.

"If this goes on unregulated, it'll spread like wildfire and we can see it, even in a recession, starting to expand here in Alberta."

Many people have concerns about the spread of these clinics, says Irfan Dhalla, a Toronto physician with Canadian Doctors for Medicare.

"First and foremost, charging patients fees for access to medically necessary services undermines the key principles of medicare," says Irfan Dhalla, a Toronto physician with Canadian Doctors for Medicare.

"By moving towards this model, it creates a situation where it's even more difficult for people who are looking for family doctors to find them."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

STORM A woman was injured, thousands were left without power and buildings were damaged by a vicious thunderstorm that hit Edmonton on the weekend.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

PROTEST A British Columbia man is under RCMP investigation after he admittedly sabotaged a drill site which was part of a seismological project in the Great Bear Rainforest. Ingmar Lee admitted to the sabotage of the site, a project he slams as environmentally damaging.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

ARREST Police have arrested a driver and recovered a vehicle after five cyclists suffered serious to life-threatening injuries from a hit-and-run collision in the city's west end Sunday morning. The first of multiple paramedic units on scene arrived to find multiple unconscious patients with various traumatic injuries. Five cyclists were taken to hospital where they are being treated for serious to life-threatening injuries. A driver later turned himself in to police. Charges have not yet been laid.
TRACEY TONG/TIM WIECLAWSKI/ METRO OTTAWA

Flu Outbreak

Swine flu vaccine trials coming soon

A flurry of innovative vaccine trials is in the offing as governments and regulatory agencies prepare for the probable launch of mass swine flu vaccination programs in the fall.

The results of the trials could determine whether people with egg allergies can be offered pandemic flu vaccine.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Most First Nations people not living on reserves
According to Statistics Canada, figures from the 2006 census show that 40 per cent of First Nations people live on reserves. The other 60 per cent live off reserve. METRO CANADA

Focus On First Nations

Assembly to choose leader

Men dominate election for national chief, though historically many Nations matriarchal

LAURA EGGERTSON
for Metro Canada

Shirley Williams hopes she will live to see a woman serve as National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

But the 70-year-old Ojibway and Odawa elder from Manitoulin Island knows it won't happen this year. There are no women among the five candidates on the ballot in tomorrow's election in Calgary.

Williams, an emeritus professor at Trent University in Peterborough, Ont., thinks she knows why.

"We have no women running for National Chief because we have been assimilated to a patriarchal society," she says.

Historically, many First Nations were matriarchal societies. Some still trace their hereditary leadership along matrilineal lines. But Williams, who also instructs Aboriginal languages teachers at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, believes the European conquest and the Indian Act's patriarchal structure eroded women's governing authority.

Many Aboriginal women won't run for the highest political office because they fear being looked down upon, Williams says.

To date only three women have run for National Chief — Marilyn Buffalo, Wendy Grant-John and Roberta Jamison. That's despite the fact that there are now more than 100 women among the 633 First Nations chiefs.

"In my mind, that's not enough," says John Beaucage, former Grand Chief of the Anishinabek Nation. Beaucage is the only candidate for National Chief calling for broad electoral reform.

> **"We have no women running for National Chief because we have been assimilated to a patriarchal society."**
> Shirley Williams, Ojibway, Odawa elder, emeritus professor

"This election, win or lose, I'm going to challenge more of our women leaders to step up as (candidates for) National Chief in the next election," he says.

Beaucage believes the AFN should be more inclusive generally, advocating that all First Nations citizens be able to vote for the National Chief. Currently, only the chiefs choose the leader, leaving many Aboriginals — especially the 60 per cent of First Nations' members who live off-reserve — feeling disenfranchised.

"The political agenda is left to 633 chiefs for whom there is no standard or necessary qualifications to assume that role. Mostly, you just have to know people," Alberta novelist Richard Wagamese wrote in a recent CBC column.

For the next National Chief to truly represent the majority of First Nations' members who live off reserve, Wagamese argued, that leader must give urban Aboriginals a significant voice.

For Shirley Williams, that means making sure women's voices are not only heard, but at the table.

"Now that women chiefs are well-educated and coming up, I think we will have a woman as National Chief — some day," she says.

5 main issues of campaign

LAURA EGGERTSON
for Metro Canada

As the five candidates for National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations have criss-crossed the country campaigning, here are a few of the top issues that have emerged:

1 TRANSPARENCY
In response to media requests, Shawn Atleo and John Beaucage released limited details about the sources of their campaign funding. Candidates are allowed to spend $35,000 on their campaigns. Perry Bellegarde refused, and Bill Wilson and Terry Nelson promised to release details on their websites before tomorrow.

2 ELECTORAL REFORM
John Beaucage has suggested that all First Nations members should be able to vote for the National Chief instead of only the chiefs. Others reject the idea, arguing that the AFN is an advocacy body, and that political power belongs in local communities.

3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
All five candidates have addressed the need to alleviate poverty and develop additional revenue sources in their communities; proposed methods differ, from foreign investment to better enforcement of treaty entitlements.

4 HEALTH
The apparently disproportionate effects of influenza A (H1N1), also known as swine flu, on Aboriginal peoples, focused so far in Manitoba and Northern Ontario communities, has the candidates calling for better pandemic resources and response and improved social conditions.

5 EDUCATION
All of the candidates acknowledge the importance of access to education, and they are leery of the federal government's "review" of post-secondary education funding, which the chiefs consider to be a treaty right.

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CANADA

First Nations women and children at a ceremony in Calgary on June 11, 2008 — the day the government of Canada formally apologized to residential school victims.

1.17 million people identified themselves as First Nations, Métis or Inuit, or 3.8 per cent of the total Canadian population.
Number of First Nations: 698, 025.
Number of Métis: 389,785.
Number of Inuit: 50,485.

19.9 Percentage of First Nations people with high school or equivalent as highest level of education.

25.5 Percentage of Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals with high school diploma or equivalent as highest level of education.

5 Percentage of First Nations people with bachelor's degree from University as highest level of education.

18 Percentage of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people with bachelor's degree from university as highest level of education.

27 Percentage of First Nations children under age 6 living off-reserve being raised by parents aged 15-24.

8 Percentage of non-Aboriginal children under age 6 being raised by parents aged 15-24.

Injuries
Leading cause of death among Aboriginal people: Injuries (including suicide, motor vehicle accidents, drowning, homicide), diseases of the circulatory system and cancer.

Diseases
Leading cause of death among non-Aboriginal people: Diseases of the circulatory system, cancer and respiratory diseases.

FIGURES COMPILED BY LAURA EGGERTSON FROM STATISTICS CANADA 2006 CENSUS

Suicide rate among First Nations youth
Figures in the 2006 census, according to Statistics Canada, show that suicide rates among First Nations youth are five to seven times higher than among non-Aboriginal youth. METRO CANADA

Focus On First Nations

5 candidates for AFN chief

Assembly of First Nations to choose one of these five to be their next leader in Canada

Chief Atleo

SHAWN ATLEO

At six years old, when Shawn Atleo walked through the Ahousaht village on B.C.'s Flores Island, the elders would stop him to explain his role and responsibilities in life.

As a hereditary chief, that role was to care for the land and support his people.

Now 42, Atleo, the chancellor of Vancouver Island University and a regional chief of the Assembly of First Nations, is taking that responsibility as a sacred trust.

He is running for National Chief of the AFN on a platform emphasizing consensus — the need for the country's 633 First Nations to work together to overcome shared challenges.

Those challenges include implementing and negotiating treaties, and improving the social conditions born of the impacts of residential schools, the Indian Act, and lack of access to economic opportunities, he says.

He cites Canada's unwillingness to sign the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as an example of the country's "long-standing non-recognition of our treaty rights," which will only be overcome if Aboriginals focus their collective efforts.

Atleo, a member of the Ahousaht First Nation, graduated with a masters' degree in education from the University of Technology, in Sydney, Australia. He is passionate about the opportunities education creates. He has served as the executive director of a family addictions treatment and run a post-secondary training institute.

He has lost childhood friends to violence, suicide, overdoses and HIV-AIDS.

"It's time to overcome the gap of understanding among people in this country," he says.

LAURA EGGERTSON/ FOR METRO CANADA

Support

- Atleo, the father of two young adults and "one grandpuppy," believes Canadians will support Aboriginals if they are better educated to understand their issues.

Chief Bellegarde

PERRY BELLEGARDE

As the first status Indian to graduate from the University of Regina in business administration, Perry Bellegarde understands the importance of economic development for Canada's Aboriginal Peoples.

That's why Bellegarde, 46, emphasizes the "four Es" as he runs for National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations: Education, Economic Development, Economic Self-Sufficiency, and the Environment.

The former Grand Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians, Bellegarde grew up on the Little Black Bear First Nation in Saskatchewan's Qu'Appelle Valley. But he has "walked in both worlds," he says. He has also been a director of personnel at the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and vice-president of the Crown Investments Corporation in Regina.

Bellegarde believes self-government is "empty and meaningless" until it is coupled with economic self-sufficiency, which requires access to land and resources, he says. At the same time, First Nations need to respect the environment.

Bellegarde also understands the importance of educational opportunities for aboriginal youth, including his three sons, nieces and nephews.

"Education and training is key for our people," he says.

"We need more and more First Nations people at all the decision-making tables," he says.

LAURA EGGERTSON/ FOR METRO CANADA

Funding cap

- As Grand Chief, Bellegarde would push the federal government to remove the two-per cent funding cap on transfers to First Nations' programs, would educate politicians and Canadians about the "Third World" conditions on many reserves, and plans to negotiate resource royalties from industry and governments.

Chief Beaucage

JOHN BEAUCAGE

John Beaucage knows that constitutional conferences are a scary prospect for Canadians.

But the 57-year-old Ojibway businessman, Chief of the Wasauksing First Nation and candidate for National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations wants one.

"We were promised another constitutional conference quite some time ago, specifically on First Nations' governance and First Nations' issues," says Beaucage.

Beaucage, who has spent much of his career as a property developer and manager, believes a constitutional amendment would give Aboriginal people more economic opportunity. Recognizing First Nations as an order of government would give them authority to levy taxes against resource companies operating in their jurisdiction, for example.

Economic self-sufficiency will also come by ensuring governments implement treaties, Beaucage adds, and by creating partnerships with non-native and native companies alike. He hopes to establish a blue-ribbon committee to focus on the on- and off-reserve Aboriginal economy.

"I've always said that my ancestors didn't sign the treaties thinking that their descendants would be forever poor," Beaucage says.

After growing up near Parry Sound, Ont., Beaucage graduated from the University of Western Ontario with an Arts' degree in English and economics.

"We should be more inclusive of all our citizens, no matter where they are. There is a disconnect between the AFN and our urban citizens," he adds.

LAURA EGGERTSON/ FOR METRO CANADA

AFN reform

- Alone among the other candidates, Beaucage calls for AFN reform, so all band members can vote for the National Chief, rather than only elected chiefs. One day, he'd like to see the votes of his four children and their children count.

Chief Nelson

TERRANCE NELSON

Terrance Nelson is anything but shy about the radical role he's playing in the campaign for the Assembly of First Nations' National Chief.

Electing the Chief of Manitoba's Roseau River First Nation would be a "nightmare scenario," according to the National Post's John Ivison, Nelson reports with pride. Former Manitoba premier Gary Filmon called him an "eco-terrorist," he repeats, almost gleefully. That's fine by Nelson, 56, who is on the governing council of the American Indian Movement south of the border.

The Ojibway leader wants foreign investors — particularly Chinese and Americans — to develop resources, from oil and gas to diamonds and hydro dams, on reserves. That would allow Aboriginals to build their own schools, health centres, and housing developments, as businesses, not handouts.

He's told the Dene and Inuit to meet with Americans about the Arctic, that "they don't need to be part of Canada if Canada is not willing to share the resource base with indigenous peoples."

Nelson, who graduated from the University of Manitoba with an undergraduate degree in psychology, intended to be a school counsellor. Instead, he's worked as a consultant, researcher and author, of books including Genocide in Canada.

His message to other chiefs: Change, and manage orderly change, or young Aboriginals will orchestrate chaotic change. Nelson's not out to destroy Canada, he insists. But "I've tapped into the anger and frustration, so expect some surprises in Calgary," he says. "Watch me, as Trudeau said."

LAURA EGGERTSON/ FOR METRO CANADA

Manitoba

- A self-taught economist, the father of five has gone to the courts to enforce treaty entitlements and to bond agencies to shame his province. In December 2006, his was the motion that proposed a National Day of Action.

TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Chief Wilson

BILL WILSON

Chief Bill Wilson readily admits he grew up in luxury, never enduring the deprivation he sees on many First Nations.

The son of a wealthy fisherman on Vancouver Island and a mother who excelled in throwing potlatches, Wilson, 65, was the "spoiled rotten" youngest of 17 children.

All the same, he's dedicated to alleviating poverty by providing Aboriginals with access to education and jobs.

"Learning is a way out of this," he says. "But if it's 28 below zero and you have no running water and no electricity, like many Indian homes, it's pretty hard to think that you're going to study by candlelight to become a Rhodes Scholar."

Wilson advocates building bridges to investors who will cut First Nations in on resource deals. Canadians must recognize and utilize the young Aboriginals who comprise the largest unemployed labour pool in the country, he says.

Those young people need skills and trades, and the opportunity to get the education he had. In 1973, Wilson graduated from UBC law school, though he has spent most of his career as a consultant, treaty negotiator and teacher of self-esteem, public speaking and confidence-building.

In that role he presses home his point about the value of work.

"If we get off our buns we can do anything we want, because we have thousands and thousands of brilliant Indian people, many of them living on reserves," Wilson says.

LAURA EGGERTSON/ FOR METRO CANADA

Ancestry

- Wilson is a member of the Cape Mudge First Nation, and is a Musgamagw/Kwawkgweth Aboriginal. Through his mother's people, the Kwikwasut'inux of Gilford Island, he is a hereditary chief.

Unemployment rates across Canada

According to Statistics Canada and the 2006 census, the average unemployment rate among First Nations people is 18 per cent. The average unemployment rate among total Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Peoples in 6.6 per cent. METRO CANADA

Focus On First Nations

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO CANADA

Vancouver artist Pamela Masik is shown in Vancouver's Gastown June 24, at the unveiling of Mona — the first of 69 paintings she created depicting missing Downtown Eastside women.

Aboriginal women missing

80 per cent of 3,000 missing women in B.C. are from First Nations

DANIEL TAM
for Metro Canada

About 3,000 women have disappeared in British Columbia — about 80 per cent of them Aboriginal — and so far, no public inquiry has been launched, no massive police investigation is planned and as the decades pass the number continues to grow.

Bernie Williams, who knows some of the family members of the "mothers, sisters and daughters" who disappeared, said not knowing whether they're still alive is an struggle.

"You just keep … hoping that one day there's going to be answers for the families," Williams said. "(They) need closure and answers."

Williams grew up alone, her mother and two sisters were all killed in the Downtown Eastside in the 1970s in separate incidents. But she knew their fate, unlike some of the people she met in the foster homes and residential schools she was raised in.

They deserve a public inquiry, she said.

To push the issue, Williams co-founded Walk4Justice, a group of trekkers who last June began a march to Ottawa to draw attention to the ongoing issue. Along the way, the group stopped at the farm where serial killer Robert Pickton took Downtown Eastside women who were never seen again.

RCMP "E' Division spokesman Rob Vermeulen with the Joint Missing Women's Task Force said people don't hear about the behind-the-scenes efforts.

A poster with 69 of the missing women was created at the time of the Pickton investigation.

"There were also another 103 reports of missing women who didn't make it to the poster … and were all found" Vermeulen said. "There's a lot of other work going on."

Williams said she feels Aboriginal women are preyed on.

"I feel because they're poor, they're more vulnerable," said Williams. "It's because of their lifestyle that they're easier to be attacked. These are very trusting women, too."

Only a public inquiry, she said, can bring peace to their relatives.

Highway of Tears

- Bernie Williams said women are still disappearing today, from urban centres and from the stretch of Highway 16 near Prince George dubbed the Highway of Tears. At least 18 women have gone missing there.

5 pressing issues

LAURA EGGERTSON
for Metro Canada

During the Assembly of First Nations' annual meeting in Calgary and the election of the National Chief, the 633 chiefs attending also pass resolutions indicative of the most pressing issues in their relationship with the federal government and the rest of Canada. Based on the resolutions, and conversations with First Nations members, look for these topics to dominate the next four years:

1 TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Truth and Reconciliation. Survivors of residential schools are anxious to see the stalled Truth and Reconciliation Commission get underway under new chair, Justice Murray Sinclair. Former students need to tell their stories; they also need Canadians to hear them.

2 FUNDING

Funding. For the last 10 years, the federal government has placed a two per cent cap on its core funding of programs to Aboriginal Peoples.

Although Ottawa has budgeted $10.8 billion in 2009-10 (across all federal departments), the chiefs want the cap removed, arguing it doesn't keep pace with demographics and cost of living, particularly in education and health. Indian Affairs and Northern Development says it reallocates within that cap to fund the most pressing needs.

3 YOUTH SUICIDE

Youth suicide. Young Aboriginal people have a suicide rate estimated at five to six times the national average.

A resolution calling for a National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy is on the floor.

4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development. Chief Don Moses of B.C.'s Lower Nicola Band is calling for the creation of a First Nations Business Institute to provide grants, contributions or loans to First Nations businesses.

Sky-high unemployment rates on reserves are driving this proposal. Access to resources on Aboriginal land is also a hot topic, and the chiefs also want a federal economic development strategy for Aboriginal Peoples.

5 GOVERNANCE

The federal government is increasingly pushing First Nations for transparent accounting and governance practices on reserves; many chiefs consider this an autonomy issue and push back.

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Federal funds for First Nations equals about $18K a person a year

CHARLES DAVIES
for Metro Canada

Stories of deprivation, poverty and illness in First Nations communities are so common that they pass unnoticed by most Canadians.

Homes on the Fort Albany First Nation in northern Ontario are contaminated with mould, yet families continue to live in them, risking respiratory problems.

Members of communities across the country are held at greater risk of contracting the H1N1 virus than other Canadians. And then there's the Cree First Nation's Kashechewan Reserve in northern Ontario, where periodic evacuations due to flooding have been punctuated by tales of tainted water, substandard housing, addiction and suicides.

If money alone could solve aboriginal problems, living conditions for Canada's more than 600 native bands would be far better than they are.

This fiscal year alone, the Indian Affairs and Northern Development Department will spend $6.9 billion on First Nations and Aboriginal Peoples, an increase of nearly 11 per cent from the previous year.

To put it in perspective, Indian Affairs accounts for slightly less than three per cent of all federal spending.

That's small compared to Human Resources and Skills Development, $42.2 billion, and National Defence, $19.2 billion, but it surpasses the $2.6 billion that will be spent on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

What's important, however, isn't that Indian Affairs spends roughly $18,000 a year for every Aboriginal person, but how the money is doled out and managed.

Under the Indian Act of 1876, still the dominant legislation governing Aboriginal Peoples, federal cash flows to individual bands for everything from education, health and housing to economic development and resource management.

While the act itself doesn't deal with accountability, each First Nation must submit an audited annual financial statement to Indian Affairs.

And since last July, Indian Affairs has reserved the right to do forensic audits of individual spending programs.

The move to tighten accountability comes after too many instances of financial mismanagement by band councils. Sometimes corruption is at the root, but more often the problem is one of competence.

Two years ago, the auditor general noted that three-quarters of all First Nations were run by inexperienced, untrained staff who bungled everything from housing construction to water purification systems.

In some cases, such as Alberta's Pilkani Nation and Ontario's Pikangikum Nation, Indian Affairs has had to temporarily take over control of finances.

The department itself doesn't score much better, given its predilection for paperwork and bureaucracy, and instances of inadequate financial management in British Columbia and Manitoba. Money gets spent, but often there's little monitoring, and little or nothing is accomplished.

Three per cent of budget

- This fiscal year alone, the Indian Affairs and Northern Development Department will spend $6.9 billion on First Nations and Aboriginal Peoples, an increase of nearly 11 per cent from the previous year. To put it in perspective, Indian Affairs accounts for slightly less than three per cent of all federal spending.

Native populations across Atlantic Canada

There are more than 25,000 Mi'kmaq across Atlantic Canada, including more than 15,600 who live on-reserve, according to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. There are also 5,863 Maliseet, 1,930 Innu and 2,634 Inuit living in Atlantic Canada, according to the federal government's website. METRO CANADA

Focus On First Nations

Pandemic overshadows race

Five men running for Canada's top job in native politics are grappling with an issue that could eclipse even the grim toll of poverty: The looming threat of the H1N1 flu virus, also known as swine flu.

Worries about what fall will bring have overshadowed the usual pre-election platitudes as the Assembly of First Nations meets this week in Calgary to choose its new leader.

There are 639 chiefs from across the country eligible to vote Wednesday, most of them based in B.C. and the Prairies.

Amid the lobbying and deal-making for the three-year post vacated by the retiring Phil Fontaine, candidates are mulling questions of life, death and pandemic preparedness.

The H1N1 strain blamed for at least 45 deaths across Canada has taken a disproportionate hold on reserves beset by overcrowded housing and a lack of clean water.

"I know places where five families live in the same two-bedroom house built by the Department of Indian Affairs," says B.C. candidate Bill Wilson, a consultant and veteran of the political battles to have native rights included in the Constitution.

"And it seems that only when people die does the government respond."

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

The H1N1 strain has taken a disproportionate hold on reserves beset by overcrowded housing.

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs estimates that about 30 per cent of more than 830 flu cases in the province stem from remote northern reserves that often lack basic water service.

This despite the fact that Aboriginal people comprise just 14 per cent of the total population.

Close quarters in overcrowded homes serve as efficient incubators for the spread of illness. There have been six confirmed deaths from H1N1 in the province, including one aboriginal victim.

As of Wednesday, the Public Health Agency of Canada reported 10,156 confirmed cases across the country and 45 deaths.

Costly native health care has often been a political football punted between Ottawa and the provinces, with sometimes tragic results.

> **"It seems that our remote communities are usually one of the last to get looked after."**
> John Beaucage

"It seems that our remote communities are usually one of the last to get looked after," said AFN candidate John Beaucage, a former economist and grand chief of the Union of Ontario Indians.

When it comes to the assembly itself, he hopes that in future the chiefs will agree to extend the vote for national chief beyond the 639 leaders, offering it to First Nations citizens on and off reserve.

Beaucage has criss-crossed the country campaigning, as has Perry Bellegarde, a career politician and former Saskatchewan vice-chief for the assembly.

His priorities include pushing Ottawa to lift the yearly funding growth cap of two per cent that is applied to more than $10 billion spent annually on native programs. That amount doesn't keep up with inflation and native population growth, he says.

Shawn Atleo, vice-chief of the assembly for B.C., is the youngest candidate in the race at 42. But he cites a long list of accolades as a regional politician and promotes himself as a bridge builder.

"All First Nations share the fundamental barrier of Canada's non-honouring, non-recognition of treaties — whether they were signed five years, 20 years or 150 years ago."

Candidate Terry Nelson, chief of the Roseau River First Nation in Manitoba, is perhaps best known for saying in 2007 that the only way to catch the attention of white "immigrants" is to get between them and their wallets.

Nelson says decades of negotiations haven't inspired Ottawa to give First Nations a fair share of the oil, minerals and timber that flow off disputed lands. He says chiefs should negotiate directly with American, Chinese and other foreign investors desperate for natural resources. THE CANADIAN PRESS

School targets the youngest generation

HEATHER BUCHAN
for Metro Canada

Many Aboriginal teens and young adults come to Toronto with the hope of upgrading their education in order to become employable. But once they get into a school, many don't last.

> **"Youth are dropping out of school, and people may tell you it's because they're discriminated against, well that's not true."**
> Ruby Dreger

"Youth are dropping out of school, and people may tell you it's because they're discriminated against, well that's not true," says Ruby Dreger, employment manager at Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training Centre in Toronto.

"One big component for why they're dropping out of school is literacy. They cannot comprehend, they get behind and they don't have a support system."

But places like Miziwe Biik as well as the Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre provide bridging programs so young people without a Grade 12 diploma can get the academic upgrade they need to go on to college or university.

One Toronto school that's aimed at the youngest generation of Aboriginal youth is the First Nations School of Toronto — an elementary school at Dundas and Broadview attended by about 80 Aboriginal children from junior kindergarten to Grade 8.

What's unique about First Nations is that it offers students regular school curriculum integrated with Aboriginal values, culture and spirituality. The school not only provides students in Grades 6, 7 and 8 with TTC tickets as well as busing for students in junior kindergarten to Grade 5, but offers free breakfasts, lunches and snacks to all students.

TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES FILE PHOTO

Some schools tailor their programs for the youngest generation of Aboriginal youth.

Elder calls for more visibility

TIM WIECLAWSKI
Metro Canada

When he thinks about the future of First Nations people in Canada, 95-year-old Algonquin Elder William Commanda, known to many as Grandfather William, is not always optimistic. The trouble, he said, is that people running the country have largely ignored the problems facing Aboriginal Peoples in Canada.

"We're invisible. They don't even talk about us anymore. It's like we're not even here," said Commanda, an advocate for First Nations people and the environment for 20 years.

William Commanda

"We are the poorest people in this country of ours, but we never gave it away."

According to the stories from his ancestors, Commanda said the first European settlers were welcomed into Canada and resources were shared between all people so nobody would suffer.

"It didn't happen that way. They took all the resources and then they left nothing behind," he said. "We don't want to get mad at anybody. We try to make people understand that we want to be friends, we want to be equal, we want to be visible."

Canada as a nation benefits from exploiting natural resources, he said, but First Nations people are still desperately poor, especially on reserves where there are few job prospects.

"Canadians have an erroneous understanding about native people living on tax dollars," said Romola Thumbadoo, a volunteer supporter of Commanda's. "It's really quite the opposite. The rest of us are squatting on the resources that are rightfully Grandfather's."

Thumbadoo said immigrants to Canada receive far more support, in terms of health care, education and justice services, than what is available to First Nations people.

McCourt dead at 78

Irish author Frank McCourt has died in New York City at age 78. He was best known for the million-selling Angela's Ashes, a memoir about his childhood. The memoir was published in 1996 and won a Pulitzer Prize. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Iran should end nuclear program: Merkel

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is calling on Iran to end its nuclear program. Merkel said in a TV interview that "the Iranian leadership should become reasonable and make their nuclear program transparent and stop it." Germany has been among the six countries leading efforts to defuse concerns – rejected by Tehran – that Iran is seeking a nuclear bomb. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ahmadinejad takes heat from supporters

Leader appoints in-law to vice-presidency; Friday sees largest Iranian protest in weeks

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, already at the centre of a post-election crisis, came under fire from his own hard-line supporters yesterday for appointing a first vice-president who once caused an outcry by saying Iranians were friends of Israelis.

The disagreements among hard-liners had been set aside since the June 12 election as they faced hundreds of thousands of Mousavi supporters who protested in the streets over what they said was massive vote fraud.

Authorities detained 40 on Friday after police clashed with thousands of protesters in the biggest opposition show of strength in weeks, the semiofficial Fars news agency reported.

Also Friday, Ahmadinejad appointed Esfandiar Rahim Mashai, his son's father-in-law, as his first vice-president. Mashai angered hard-liners in 2008 when he said Iranians were "friends of all people in the world — even Israelis."

Most hard-liners consider Israel to be Iran's archenemy, and Ahmadinejad himself has repeatedly called for the Jewish state's destruction. Mashai also angered many of Iran's top clerics in 2007 when he attended a ceremony in Turkey where women performed a traditional dance.

Conservative interpretations of Islam prohibit women from dancing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Last British embassy worker released

• Iran yesterday released an Iranian employee of the British Embassy on bail who it has charged with harming national security for alleged involvement in the protests, said the man's lawyer, Abdolsamad Khorramshi. Hossein Rassam, the embassy's chief political analyst who was jailed June 27, was released from Evin prison in Tehran on bail of about $100,000 US, said Khorramshi. Iran arrested nine local employees of the British Embassy in June, saying they were involved in the protests. The others were released, and Rassam is the only one who has been charged.

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Soldier was blown off cliff

AFGHANISTAN The Canadian soldier killed during a counter-insurgency operation last week stepped on an explosive before being thrown off a cliff to his death, military officials disclosed yesterday. Initially, with the operation ongoing, they would only say that Pte. Sebastien Courcy, 26, died after a fall from "high ground" during the mission in the Panjwaii district. In fact, Courcy "stepped on something that exploded" as his team made their way to a vantage point on Salavat Gar, a mountain south of Kandahar city, said Lt.-Col. Mike Patrick, chief of operations for Task Force Kandahar. Patrick said it remains unclear whether the explosion was the result of a freshly planted IED or an old landmine, an ever-present threat in the war-ravaged country. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Israel rejects U.S. demand

MIDDLE EAST Israel yesterday rejected a U.S. demand to suspend a planned housing project in east Jerusalem, threatening to further complicate a tense standoff with its strongest ally over settlement construction.

Israeli officials said the country's ambassador to Washington, Michael Oren, was summoned to the State Department over the weekend and told that a project made up of 20 apartments developed by an American millionaire should not go ahead. Settlements built on captured lands claimed by the Palestinians have emerged as a major sticking point in relations between Israel and the Obama administration because of their potential to disrupt Mideast peacemaking.

Although Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently yielded to heavy U.S. pressure to endorse the establishment of a Palestinian state, he has resisted American demands for an immediate freeze on settlement expansion. Netanyahu told his Cabinet there would be no limits on Jewish construction anywhere in "unified Jerusalem."

"We cannot accept the fact that Jews wouldn't be entitled to live and buy anywhere in Jerusalem," Netanyahu declared.

"I can only imagine what would happen if someone suggested Jews could not live in certain neighbourhoods in New York, London, Paris or Rome. There would certainly be a major international outcry," Netanyahu said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAN BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Palestinian woman walks next to the Shepherd Hotel in East Jerusalem. The U.S. has demanded that Israel suspend a planned housing project on the grounds of the hotel.

Breaking down New York carbon dioxide, block by block

ENVIRONMENT Wade McGillis peered up at the structure propped like a high-tech stick figure — minus the head — on an elementary school roof. Then he examined the electronics attached to its spindly metal frame, looking out over the Harlem brownstones nearby and the skyscrapers farther away. Within 15 minutes, a graph spiked in his office eight blocks away.

The abrupt peak marked the carbon dioxide the Columbia University environmental engineering professor and three visitors had exhaled. The spike was an anomaly, but it proved the rooftop device had done its job, helping to break down questions about global warming to a local level.

"We're unraveling the story of how carbon (dioxide) changes over the day, changes from neighbourhood to neighbourhood, and changes from the country to the city," said McGillis, who has set up seven sensors in and around New York City.

The urban experiment shows a growing interest by researchers in tracking how much of the heat-trapping gas a city, neighbourhood or building puts in the atmosphere, and how much the urban environment can suck out. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEBETO MATTHEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Columbia university professor Wade McGillis stands near his rooftop carbon dioxide monitor in Harlem.

Democrats defend health plan
Administration officials defended U.S. President Barack Obama's broad health care proposals yesterday and urged a skeptical public not to judge the Democrats' overhaul until Congress writes a final version. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Most won't recall moon landing

LUNAR Most people have never known a world where man hasn't been to the moon. It used to be a given that people knew where they were when man first walked on the moon on July 20, 1969, watching the black-and-white images on TV. But now most Americans don't know where they were because the majority of Americans hadn't been born yet. The median age of Americans last year was 36.8, meaning more than half of U.S. residents are younger than 40, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Six current astronauts were not alive when Armstrong walked on the moon, including Christopher Cassidy, a crew member on space shuttle Endeavour, which launched Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Apollo effect

Forty years later, moon landing remains a benchmark

ApolloLanding

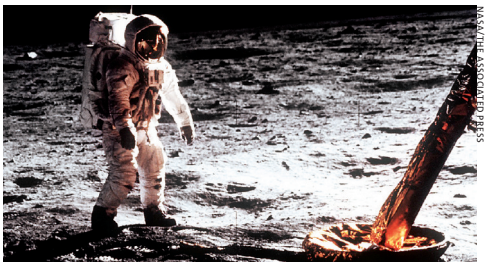
The measure of what humanity can accomplish is a size 9½ bootprint.

It belongs to Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon. Apollo 11 is the glimmering success that failures of society are contrasted against: 'If we can send a man to the moon, why can't we ...'

Forty years later, the moon landing is talked about as a generic human achievement, not an American one. But Apollo at the time was more about U.S. commitment and ingenuity.

Historian Douglas Brinkley called the Apollo program "the exemplary moment of America's we-can-do-anything attitude."

In years since, when America faces a challenge, leaders often look to the Apollo program for inspiration. In 1971, when president Richard Nixon declared war on cancer, his staffers called it "a moon shot for cancer." Last year, then-candidate Barack Obama and former vice-president Al Gore proposed a massive effort to fight global warming, comparing it to Apollo 11. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


NASA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Astronaut Edwin Aldrin walks on the moon.

Different paths for astronauts

ApolloLanding

SPOTLIGHT In the 40 years since Apollo 11, some of the key players, most notably Neil Armstrong, have steered clear of the increasingly bright glare of the moonlight cast by the historic lunar landing.

Command module pilot Michael Collins, who circled the moon while Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin explored its dusty surface, is just as elusive. He's not sure "recluse," though, is the right word.

"I think of the Brown Recluse, the deadliest of spiders, and I have a suntan, so perhaps," Collins wrote in a statement for NASA to get journalists and others off his case.

Aldrin, on the other hand, seems to be everywhere, plugging everything from radios to designer handbags, and signing copies of his new book.

Aldrin, the omnipresent lunar module pilot, has a new book out, "Magnificent Desolation." That was his description of the moonscape after he followed Armstrong down the ladder.

The book focuses on his post-lunar life, and his battle with depression and alcoholism.

He still looks remarkably fit. In 2002, he punched, right in the face, a much bigger and younger man who was hounding him and trying to get him to swear on a Bible, on camera, that he walked on the moon. That's what he thinks of those who claim the Apollo moon landings were staged in a studio in the Nevada desert. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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News in brief

AFGHANISTAN A U.S. soldier who disappeared from his base in Afghanistan has been captured, the Pentagon confirmed yesterday, a day after he was seen in a Taliban video posted online. The Defence Department released the name of Pfc. Bowe R. Bergdahl, 23, who was serving with an Alaska-based infantry regiment. The private was last seen walking away from his base near the border with Pakistan in an area known to be a Taliban stronghold.

MYANMAR Authorities in Myanmar detained dozens of opposition party members yesterday as they returned from ceremonies marking the death of the father of jailed pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, witnesses said.

RUSSIA Gunmen opened fire on the home of the chief of an elite police unit, killing his sister and wounding him and other family members, police in Russia's violence-prone Ingushetia province said yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toilet troubles on space station

MISSION The bathroom lines at the already crowded space shuttle and space station complex got a lot longer yesterday because of a flooded toilet.

One of two commodes aboard the international space station malfunctioned, right in the middle of complicated robotic work being conducted by the two crews.

The pump separator apparently flooded.

Mission Control advised the astronauts to hang an "out of service" sign on the toilet until it could be fixed. In the meantime, the six space station residents had to get in line to use their one good toilet.

And Endeavour's seven astronauts were restricted to the shuttle bathroom. There have never been so many people — 13 — together in space. The toilet repair work fell to Belgian Frank De Winne, who had to don goggles, gloves and a mask.

13 Number of people currently in space, an all-time high.

Flight director Brian Smith declined to speculate whether overuse caused the toilet trouble. Teams of specialists in Houston and Moscow hurriedly convened to discuss the problem. The Russian-built, multimillion-dollar toilet flew up on a shuttle last November.

Two bathrooms ultimately are needed for a full station crew of six. Smith said he did not know how long six occupants could rely on a single toilet. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Driver under scrutiny in light rail crash

CALIFORNIA The operator of a light-rail train that crashed Saturday and injured dozens of passengers in San Francisco came under scrutiny yesterday as federal investigators tried to figure out why he inexplicably turned off the automatic controls moments before the collision.

National Transportation Safety Board investigator Ted Turpin did not know why the operator switched the controls from automatic to manual in a tunnel.

Had he kept the autopilot on, the train would have slowed down before arriving at the station and likely not careened into a parked train while going 37 kilometres per hour, Turpin said. He added that the operator never engaged the emergency brake.

The crash injured 48 people, four seriously, in the latest in a series of commuter train wrecks in recent months in the U.S. None of the injuries were life-threatening.

Two Los Angeles-based NTSB investigators are working with transit officials to interview passengers, witnesses and focus on assessing the condition of the train tracks, signal systems and the structural integrity of the train cars involved. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No compromise as talks end

HONDURAS Talks on resolving Honduras' leadership crisis broke off yesterday after the interim government rejected a proposed compromise, saying a provision calling for ousted President Manuel Zelaya to serve out his term was "unacceptable." The two sides remained deadlocked on the issue of Zelaya's return after a fourth day of negotiations, but the mediator, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, promised renewed efforts to seek a solution and avoid bloodshed in the Central American country.

"It was not possible to reach a satisfactory agreement. The Zelaya delegation fully accepted my proposal, but not that of Mr. Roberto Micheletti," Arias said, referring to the interim president sworn in by congress after the June 28 coup. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boston Globe union to vote again

Members of The Boston Globe's largest labour union will decide this week whether to accept a new contract that makes deep cuts to wages and benefits. Today's vote will be the second in two months for the Boston Newspaper Guild, which narrowly rejected a similar deal in June. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

Bug maker now Porsche maker: Report

The struggle over control of Porsche, the heavily leveraged maker of world-class sports cars including the 911, appears to be coming to an end, according to media reports. The German weekly news magazine Der Spiegel reported on its website that Wolfsburg-based Volkswagen AG would initially get 49.9 per cent of Porsche AG and later take the remaining shares. The magazine did not reveal its sources in its report.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

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BoC boss on the hot seat

Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney has a lot of explaining to do this week.

With the central bank due to issue the scheduled interest rate announcement tomorrow and the quarterly Monetary Policy report Thursday, economists and investors are awaiting what Carney has to say about what looks like an economy on a razor's edge between recession and recovery.

Tomorrow's headline decision on interest rates is a no-brainer.

As the central bank announced in April, the policy rate is to stay at the practical 0.25 per cent floor until at least next spring barring any nasty surprises. That means borrowing costs tied to the central bank rate and the banks' prime rate — many types of mortgages, lines of credit, as well as consumer and car loans — will remain stable for at least another year.

Mark Carney

But the question is what will Carney say about the economy, for the rest of this year and going forward?

And will Carney begin hinting about exit strategies from some of the extraordinary measures the bank and the federal government have introduced to keep the money markets functioning during the crisis?

Carney's call for the economy to shrink by three per cent this year will almost certainly be revised because it was based on the first quarter coming in at negative 7.3 per cent, instead of the 5.4 per cent Statistics Canada later reported.

The consensus is now for the shrinkage to be held at 2.3 per cent, a significant difference in a $1.5-trillion economy.

In April, Carney also unveiled the bank's options for intervening in financial markets through so-called quantitative and credit easing — the short-term purchase of government and corporate bonds to pump cash into the economy and ease the credit crunch for consumers and businesses.

"It was a masterful explanation of what might happen because it explained it clearly, but also because it dampened expectations of the bank actually doing it," said Robson.

The bank governor has taken some grief in the past over what many believed was an overly optimistic view about the Canadian economy's ability to recover.

Now with conditions materially improving, Robson believes he has some reason to crow — in cryptic bank speak, of course.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nortel's U.S. pensions covered

COURT A U.S. federal agency has taken responsibility for pensions covering 23,000 American employees and retirees of Nortel Networks, which has been under court protection from its creditors since January.

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. (PBGC) announced the decision Friday from Washington and said it estimates the Nortel Networks Retirement Income Plan has assets worth only $716 million US, while its benefit liabilities are $1.23 billion.

The agency says it expects to cover the entire $514-million shortfall for the company's U.S. defined-benefit pension plan.

The company's Canadian employees won't be covered by the U.S. agency. The Toronto-based company confirmed PBGC had assumed trusteeship of the U.S. defined benefit plan.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

In brief

GAS It's the end of an era for some Prairie motorists. For almost 10 years, the discount gasoline hunt had become a way of life for drivers in cities such as Winnipeg in search of the best deal. They would pay little heed to the official price posted on large signs at gas stations and searched instead for a smaller sign that would indicate a discount of anywhere between 3½ and seven cents a litre. Now, the larger retailers have decided that times have changed. They're phasing out the at-the-pump discounts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Mattel Even barbie takes hit in recession

FILE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this March file photo, decorations are seen at Barbie's Real-Life Malibu Dream House in Malibu. Toy maker Mattel Inc. said sales of Barbie and other toys sank in the second quarter, but profit rose 82 per cent, beating analyst expectations, as the company cut down on expenses.

Will market gains continue?

Some analysts are saying the stock markets look ripe for a retracement after strong gains this past week.

"I wouldn't be surprised," said David Rosenberg, chief economist at Gluskin + Sheff and Associates Inc.

"Whether we actually test the lows (of early March) or go through the lows, at this point that's a tough call. But if you're going to ask David Rosenberg, would I be chasing the market right now? The answer is no."

"It's the most popular game on Wall Street."
David Rosenberg

The TSX ended the week up just over six per cent after a string of better than expected earnings reports from blue chips such as Goldman Sachs Group and Intel Corp. raised hopes for an economic recovery.

However, enthusiasm was tested at the end of the week by the quarterly earnings report from bellwether General Electric Corp., which beat expectations on the earnings side, but disappointed on revenue.

"It's the most popular game on Wall Street — you talk down your estimates, lower the high bar to a few inches off the ground so you really just have to take a stutter step to cross over it so then you get the headlines that 70 per cent of the companies have beaten the estimates," said Rosenberg.

"They're beating numbers that were hardly heroic when all is said and done. But what I think is interesting is that the vast majority of companies are still beating their estimates through cost cutting."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Going Green

Cost of keeping cool

A standup fan uses 75 watts; a window unit, 100 watts. Running them for 12 hours a day will use 2.1 kilowatt-hours of electricity, costing about 21 cents. A 1,000-watt air-conditioner, running for three-quarters of the day will use 18 kilowatt hours, and cost about $1.80. A central air-conditioner can use up to 3,500 watts, or 63 kilowatt hours a day, and cost about $6.30. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Federal environment rules tame

EarthTones

Sophia Dore & Andrew Laursen

metronews.ca/earthtones

FocusOn FirstNations

This week Metro is focusing on the challenges facing Canada's First Nations. One contributing factor in the erosion of the traditional lifestyle and therefore culture is environmental degradation on reserves. Aboriginal peoples are at particularly high risk because traditionally, they depend on local fish and wildlife for a larger part of their diet.

In the 1970s, the Grassy Narrows and White Dog reserves made headlines when large numbers of people living there were found to be suffering from mercury poisoning. This poisoning was traced to high mercury levels in waterways on the reserves, which led to high mercury levels in the fish that were consumed by residents.

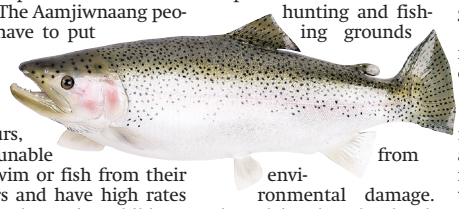
Unfortunately, the experience of the Grassy Narrows and White Dog reserves residents is not unique. The construction of hydroelectric plants along the St. Lawrence River has led to PCB contamination of the river and land along it in Ontario, Quebec, and northern New York State.

PCBs are a particular problem for people who eat local fish and wildlife because they bioaccumulate.

PCBs are not very soluble in water but are very soluble in fat. When PCBs enter a small fish's body, rather than being excreted, they are stored in the small fish's fatty tissues. If a larger fish eats 100 small fish, it will store all the PCBs from the 100 small fish in its fatty tissues. If we then come along and eat 10 large fish, we will then be storing the PCB from 1,000 small fish in our fatty tissues.

Breast milk contains a high percentage of fat. If a mother has PCBs stored in her fat, she will pass them along to her child in breast milk. This is what has happened at the Akwesasne Mohawk Nation. The Akwesasne people had to stop eating local fish and wildlife because of the PCB levels that were found in their bodies and in doing so, part of their culture was taken away.

These problems persist on reserves to the present day. The Aamjiwnaang First Nation Reserve near Sarnia is located in the heart of petrochemical manufacturing country. Their soil and water has been found to be contaminated with dioxins, PCBs, pesticides and metals. The Aamjiwnaang people have to put up with odours, are unable to swim or fish from their rivers and have high rates of asthma in children. Speaking of children, at the Aamjiwnaang First Nation two girls were born for every boy and it is hypothesized that endocrine disrupters were the cause of this uneven birthrate.



The Mikisew Cree and Athabasca Chipewyan First Nations in Northern Alberta are currently attempting to protect their traditional hunting and fishing grounds from environmental damage. They claim that the development of the Alberta oilsands is threatening their traditional way of life. They cite increased cases of cancer, lower water levels and a decline in the wildlife in the area. A British bank agrees with the First Nations and has donated $190,000 to the Cree to help fund a lawsuit against the Albertan and Canadian governments.

One of the major factors in environmental problems on First Nations lands is that the reserves are regulated by the federal government not by the provinces, and federal environmental regulations are weaker than those of the individual provinces. So clearly Ottawa has to step up.

Sophia Dore is an environmental scientist with Conestoga-Rovers & Associates. Andrew Laursen is an assistant professor at Ryerson University; earthtones.metro@gmail.com.

Thinking outside the cardboard box

BOXES Not into hunting for cardboard boxes before you move? Vancouver-based FrogBox rents plastic boxes so you don't have to use cardboard boxes.

A week's rental for a one bedroom condo costs about $110. The company will drop off plastic boxes at your old house and pick them up at your new place.

FrogBox, which also just opened in Seattle, estimates that Greater Vancouver uses about 450,000 cardboard boxes every month for moving, and Seattle uses about one million. "The amount of resources used by people using FrogBoxes for moving is drastically reduced," says founder Doug Burgoyne.

FrogBox says its ergonomic boxes can be reused about 400 times before they're recycled.

FrogBox gives one per cent of their sales to frog habitat restoration.

Visit frogbox.com for more information.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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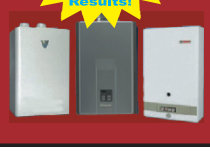

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The rarest shot in golf

Paul Lawrie made a double eagle, the rarest shot in golf, in the final round of the British Open yesterday. The former Open champion hit a 4-iron into the hole on the par-5 seventh yesterday. It was the first double eagle — also known as an albatross — at the Open since Gary Evans in the opening round at Royal Troon in 2004. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Gonzalez still in hospital

San Diego Padres second baseman Edgar Gonzalez, left, remained in hospital yesterday with dizziness after he was he was hit in the head by a 93 m.p.h. pitch on Saturday. Gonzalez did not have a skull fracture or a concussion, but complained of dizziness and ringing in his ears, reports said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Watson falls one putt short

59-year-old bogeys final hole, loses British Open to Cink in four-hole playoff

Tom Watson stood over an eight-foot par putt yesterday on the final hole of a mystical British Open, one stroke away from becoming the oldest major champion in history.

For the first time all week, he showed his 59-year-old nerves. The putt never had a chance. A little more than an hour later, neither did Watson.

Stewart Cink, who made a 12-foot birdie on the final hole of regulation, took advantage of Watson's missed opportunity and overwhelmed him in the four-hole playoff to win by six shots.

Watson stood on the 18th tee one last time, blinking away tears. He wasn't alone in his sadness. Thousands of fans who filled the grandstands for the first time all week sat in stunned silence.

MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stewart Cink, left, admires the claret jug as Tom Watson looks on, after Cink beat Watson in a playoff to win the British Open golf championship yesterday at Scotland's Turnberry golf course.

Cink, who was never atop the leaderboard all week until Watson missed the winning putt, was flawless in the playoff and finished with two birdies. As he gazed at the fabled claret jug, he paid his due to Watson, the modern-day King of the Links.

"I don't even know what to say," Cink said. "My hat's off to him. He turned back the clock. Just did a great job. I speak for all the rest of the people here, too."

"The dream almost came true."
Tom Watson

Indeed, he did. The loudest cheer was for the player who won the silver medal.

"It was almost," Watson said. "The dream almost came true."

From the middle of the 18th fairway, Watson hit 8-iron and followed its flight, right at the flag. It bounded through the green, and his putt back up the slope ran eight feet past the hole.

Watson steadied himself over the par putt, and thousands of fans braced themselves.

All week long, as Watson kept his name atop the leaderboard, there was a feeling that he couldn't hold up over four days and 72 holes. Now, he was eight feet away from the unthinkable.

The drama ended as the ball wobbled off the blade, obvious that it wasn't struck hard enough. Watson's shoulders slumped.

"I made a lousy putt," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Decision time looming for JDG

SOCCER It's decision time for Julian de Guzman.

The Canadian international midfielder from Scarborough has been offered a contract to join Toronto FC following the Gold Cup. With Canada eliminated from the tournament after a 1-0 quarterfinals loss to Honduras Saturday night, the 28-year-old, who has been playing in Europe, must decide what's next.

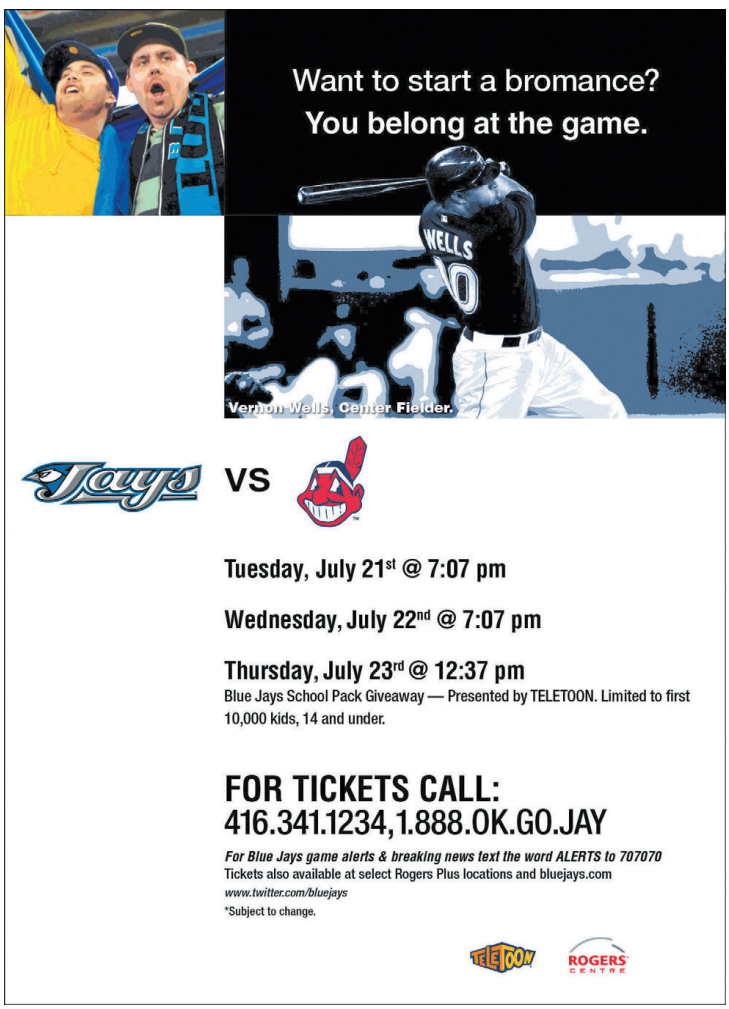
"I think it's down to him to decide if he wants to come in or not," TFC coach Chris Cummins said following his team's 1-1 draw against the Houston Dynamo at BMO Field on Saturday.

"He's having a good think about it. I'm not sure when he's going to make that decision."

De Guzman, who was the Canadian men's player of the year in 2008, has reportedly been mulling over an offer to be TFC's first designated player, with the price tag put at $10 million US for three years.

A shorter deal, said to be six figures for the rest of this season, has also been rumoured.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Doc dominates BoSox

MLB RESULTS

Boston 1 Toronto 3

AT

BASEBALL Like pretty much every one in the crowd of 36,534 at Rogers Centre, Rod Barajas couldn't help but wonder yesterday if Roy Halladay was making his final start for the Toronto Blue Jays.

"You hear the rumours — there were some rumours last year, nothing like it is this year — so I'm thinking there's a possibility it can happen," he said. "He's the best pitcher I've ever had the chance to catch, so, absolutely, I thought about it.

"I was hoping he'd have an unbelievable performance, something I could remember."

Halladay delivered in that regard, throwing a dazzling complete-game six hitter in a 3-1 victory over the American-League East leading Boston Red Sox. He needed just 105 pitches, 78 strikes, to slice through a pitch-eating lineup with his trademark efficiency, earning his first win in four starts since returning from the disabled list.

Out of character was Halladay's effusive tip of the cap to an adoring crowd on his way off the field. A pair of lengthy ovations greeted him before the game and fans stood throughout the ninth, showing appreciation for his latest masterpiece.

"The fans were excited, they were cheering," Halladay said of the cap tip, playing down the moment. "That's all it was."

Maybe, but it's impossible to escape the sense of countdown to departure around the ace right-hander right now.

Essentially placed on the trade market publicly by general manager J.P. Ricciardi two weeks ago, Halladay's future has since become one of the biggest stories in baseball. His start for the AL at the all-star game thrust him into the centre of a media frenzy that he described as "one of those kind of overwhelming moments in your life."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

TOUR DE FRANCE Spain's Alberto Contador won a showdown with American Lance Armstrong yesterday, capturing the yellow jersey with a dominating victory in the first Alpine stage of the Tour de France. Armstrong moved up to second place in the standings after the 15th stage.

BASEBALL The Florida Marlins and representatives from Major League Baseball broke ground Saturday with South Florida officials on the team's new, retractable-roof stadium in Miami's Little Havana .

UFC The news from the doctors is good for UFC welterweight champion Georges St. Pierre. A groin injury sustained in St. Pierre's UFC title defence at UFC 100 on July 11 is not that serious, according to his management.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

It's Called Football

Ben Rycroft

Will return next week.

Metro Workology exclusive: Backstage Pass
In the coming weeks Metro's Workology section will be focusing on the part of the entertainment industry that you DON'T see. Backstage Pass will focus on the careers behind the camera and the curtain. So be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work every day.

Workology

Students' studies jeopardized

Students from Mexico and the Czech Republic planning to study at Canadian institutions this fall are being told they may require a temporary travel visa on top of their study permit, given new visa rules effective last week. Schools such as the Universities of Alberta and Regina are assessing the impact of the new requirements, and are contacting incoming students from both nations to ensure they get the information they need as soon as possible. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Helping aboriginals feel at home in school

FocusOn FirstNations

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

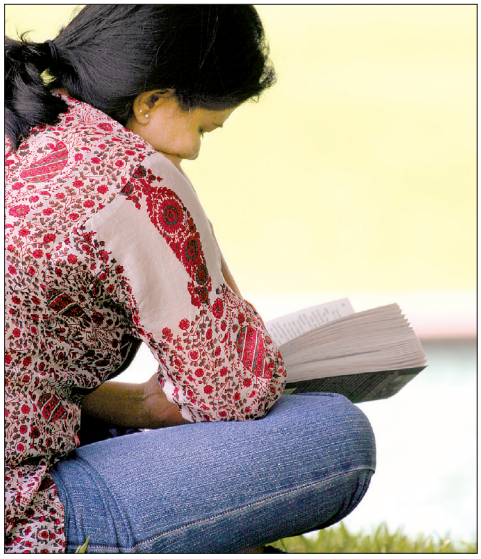
Many aboriginal university students are the first in their family to attend and suffer from culture shock, says Irvin Hill, aboriginal cultural liaison officer at Carleton University. His job is to bridge aboriginal and university cultures.

"A lot of aboriginal students who come to university face obstacles once they get here," he says. "There's a general lack of aboriginal culture within the institutions."

That applies to curriculum and lifestyle, he says, noting many universities are actively working to change that. In the meantime, aboriginal students may need support to adjust.

"We're here if they need any assistance, whether it's speaking to someone who understands their culture, maybe bringing an elder in so they can talk to an elder," he says. "We try to set up a community here so students will feel at home."

Carleton offers a minor in aboriginal studies under its Canadian Studies program, a sign that Canada's traditionally Euro-centric teaching of history is opening up. Schools such as Ontario's Lakehead University, Alberta's Red River College and Manitoba's First Nations University also offer aboriginal-centric programs.



Many colleges and universities across Canada are trying to bring more Native American culture into their institutions in order to help aboriginal students feel more at home and welcome.

"The curriculum is changing, but there are still some schools, even some colleges and universities, that have the outdated curriculum and information that is not correct," says Hill.

Wendy Drummond, special project coordinator at Royal Roads University in Victoria, says universities can play a vital role in "capacity building," which can turn struggling communities around.

Royal Roads works with the Yekooche First Nation, a remote B.C. village of 120 people. After a series of treaty negotiations with the provincial and federal governments, it began taking a larger role in its own governance.

"The chief and council recognized that they were not ready to assume the governance role the treaty would require. They contacted Royal Roads University to … assist in the development of capacity to assume governance responsibilities," explains Drummond.

The two groups developed the Learning Centre as a neutral space where Royal Roads could learn from the Yekooche community and vice versa.

"The Learning Centre … encouraged everyone's participation equally — children, youth, adults and Elders," says Drummond. "With each success they became a more invested member of the community. With this investment came a sense of responsibility and commitment to enhance what they could offer to make their home, community and nation a better place."

That in turn leads to better-run communities and more prosperous individuals, Drummond says.

Capacity building

• The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development defines capacity building as encompassing a community's "human, scientific, technological, organizational, institutional and resource capabilities." The goal is to "enhance the ability to evaluate and address the crucial questions related to policy choices and modes of implementation."

Workology in **brief**

STRIFE A new study by the University of British Columbia states that male university students are just as likely as female students to be victims of physical or emotional violence. Of the students who experienced violence, 59 per cent of males and one-third of females said they had been drinking when the violence occurred, while nearly half of the emotional violence and 20 per cent of the physical violence reported by both genders came from intimate partners.

MONEY The Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI MUHC) and McGill University have received grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research totalling $14-million, in order to attract and train the next generation of biomedical researchers. RI MUHC is a world-renowned biomedical and health-care hospital and research centre that supports 600 researchers and nearly 1,200 graduate and post-doctoral students.

SKILLED TRADES According to a recent survey commissioned by the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum, there is a countrywide shortage of skilled tradespersons in Canada. Of the country's approximately 200 skilled trades, there is particular demand for automotive service and repair professionals as well as electricians and plumbers.

PUBLIC As a result of the deteriorating job market, many young people are being forced to consider new careers, and they are looking to the public sector. According to university and college enrolment data, nursing, paramedics, early childhood education, wildlife conservation, social work and police foundations training saw the biggest jump for fall 2009. Applications for mathematics, computer and information sciences and communication technologies fell. This shift is related to the perceived stability of the public sector.

HEATHER BUCHAN/
FOR METRO CANADA

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Metro Workology exclusive: Backstage Pass

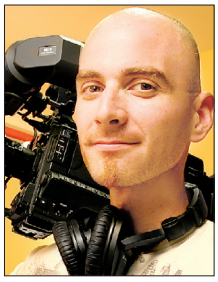
In the coming weeks Metro's Workology section will focus on the parts of the entertainment industry that you don't see. Backstage Pass will look at the careers behind the camera and the curtain, so be sure to read Workology and metronews.ca/work every day.

Point and shoot across Canada

Cameraman tells of adventure and opportunity, but also warns of drawbacks

Backstage Pass

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada



"Because you have to fight for everything, you definitely feel like you've earned it. Your success is a direct result of your effort."
Aizick Grimman

Aizick Grimman is a mercenary for hire, but instead of a gun, he carries a camera.

The 29-year-old freelance cameraman and photographer decided five years ago to make his love of photography and films into a career working for the best — and toughest — boss he could imagine: Himself.

Since 2004 his career has seen him hired for more than a few adventures, like travelling across Canada filming tours of haunted houses and flying to the United Arab Emirates to cover an education conference and film a documentary. He is principle camera operator on the health and lifestyle show Fit and Fabulous for Rogers TV and he also does corporate filming work, which he says tends to be the most lucrative of all.

While he considers live camerawork his main gig, like most freelancers in their respective industries, Grimman puts on many other hats as well. He regularly works as a video editor for CBC Newsworld, does freelance still photography and teaches editing and camera work at Seneca College. Operating as a jack-of-all-trades in his field means he keeps a relatively steady work schedule.

"I'm lucky because with all the hats I wear I'm never really unemployed," he said.

Starting out, Grimman says the biggest challenges were finding the confidence to move forward and being able to manage his finances. When he began freelancing, no one told him how much he should be charging or what a reasonable workday is supposed to look like and other freelancers were usually loathe to share their best advice and industry secrets.

These days he always keeps three months' salary tucked away and says his biggest challenge is making sure he gets his due.

"You're always fighting to be paid because you very rarely have a contract. The deal is almost always on a handshake and a nod. I've turned down jobs when I didn't trust the person's personality," Grimman said.

He finished a degree in Sociology and Communications from York University and worked in social services for a year before realizing his love for media was a passion worth pursuing. He did a two-year Broadcast Television program at Seneca College in Toronto and set out to work as a freelancer.

The requirements of his job have seen him invest tens of thousands of dollars into equipment like cameras, lights and computers but he considers it all a part of running a business and shouldering the costs as well as the returns, something he says is ultimately rewarding.

"Because you have to fight for everything, you definitely feel like you've earned it. Your success is a direct result of your effort," Grimman said.

Through it all, Grimman has learned that nothing beats honesty and hard work.

"Really freelance is about trust. When people trust you enough, that's when you build clients," he said.

Freedom and challenge are a bit part of why Grimman loves what he does.

"There's so much freedom and creative control in what I do. I never feel like I'm stagnating," he said.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Freelance cameraman Aizick Grimman says his biggest challenges have included finding the confidence to move forward and making sure he gets his due.

For more of the Backstage Pass exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by: metronews.ca/work

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Concordia joins Project hero
Concordia University announced last week that it is the first Quebec university to participate in Project Hero, a program in which four-year scholarships are offered to children of Canadian Forces personnel killed in the line of duty dating back to February 2002. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Your personal concierge

OddJobs
Diane Peters
Metronews.ca/oddjobs

Lisa Brick is very organized. The Edmontonian spent 20 years doing administrative work at various companies and rose eventually to executive assistant.

"At first it was just a job and a way to support my family, but it became something I enjoyed doing," says Brick, who's now 44.

She had a diploma in administration, then went back to school to study business. "That was when I started thinking about maybe opening my own business."

Six years ago, a friend told her about a personal assistant service in New York. The company would pick up people's dry cleaning and buy their groceries.

"This is exactly what I do for my boss," thought Brick. She looked around and found similar companies in Canada, but none in Edmonton.

In September 2005, she launched VIP Concierge & Errand Service with her daughter, Sarah Conant, a recent theatre production graduate, as her only employee.

Within a week, they had their first client. Soon they were house sitting, finding plumbers, buying birthday gifts, getting oil changes and booking travel for an ever-growing list of well-to-do clients.

Brick soon had to hire more staff: Today she has four full-time staff (she calls them concierges) and 10 part timers. Conant now runs the event planning division of the company and has two staff helping her.

To build the company, Brick and Conant constantly network. Through their contacts, they get great deals on oil changes, nab hard-to-find sports and theatre tickets, secure last-minute dinner reservations to and get the best travel prices.

Brick still runs the business out of her home. Her day starts with scheduling: She looks over the requests from clients and organizes who will do what and when, and makes sure all the instructions are complete.

She then sometimes heads out the door — like many of her staff members — to hit the mail, the grocery store or the auto repair shop. But more often she spends time on the phone doing research for the company's top clients to find them everything from contractors to nannies.

It's a job that requires organizational skills and the ability to multitask. And while you'd think it'd be a drag to spend your days visiting the vet and picking up flowers, both Brick and her staff love it.

They're talking to people all day, often get to pick up high-end products they wouldn't normally buy for themselves, and are never stuck in an office.

"Running my own errands, I hate it, because I never feel I have enough time," says Brick. "But I like doing it for other people."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Personal assistant
Salary: $20 an hour and up
Education/training: Experience in administration, plus a talent for multitasking
Best Part of the Job: "I enjoy the people I work with, I enjoy the clients. It's nice not being stuck behind a desk all day."
Worst Part of the Job: "If things get so crazy and we can't fit a client into our schedule, that's hard for me."

If you're missing your own deadlines as the responsibilities of life keep catching up to you, Lisa Brick's VIP Concierge & Errand Service might be right for you.

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Depp wants to play Channing

Johnny Depp has his eye on a gender-bending movie role — he would love to portray actress Carol Channing in a biopic. "My dream role would be to play musical legend Carol Channing in a biopic of her life," he said. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Leaving Idol?

Paula Abdul's manager says his client will ditch American Idol unless producers change their tune. "Very sadly, it does not appear that she's going to be back on Idol," her manager said. USMAGAZINE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Box office

The new Harry Potter film is no. 1 at the box office.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres:

1. **Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince:** $79.5 million US
2. **Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs:** $17.7 million
3. **Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen:** $13.8 million
4. **Brüno:** $8.4 million
5. **The Proposal:** $8.3 million
5. **The Hangover:** $8.3 million
7. **Public Enemies:** $7.6 million
8. **Up:** $3.1 million
9. **My Sister's Keeper:** $2.8 million
10. **I Love You, Beth Cooper:** $2.7 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rock and roll all nite

Legendary hard rockers Kiss bring energetic live show to Casino Rama

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

For more than 35 years, trend-setting supergroup Kiss has stood as the gold standard for over the top, rock 'n' roll outrageousness.

With their fantasy fuelled grease-paint drenched personas (abandoned in the early '80s but resurrected in the '90s), flamboyant, fire breathing stage shows and thundering, anthemic, amp shredding sound, the band — formed in the early '70s by Brooklynites Paul Stanley and Gene Simmons — still command a rabid, million strong following around the world, known collectively as the Kiss Army.

Now, after an astonishing, well publicized, performance on American Idol last season, the band has hit the road again for another monstrous world tour that includes numerous Canadian dates (recent sold out dates in Windsor, Ottawa and Montreal have received rave reviews and will be followed by a two-night stop at Orillia's Casino Rama tonight and tomorrow).

UNIVERSAL MUSIC PHOTO

Kiss brings its flamboyant live show to Orillia for a pair of shows at Casino Rama this week.

Lead guitarist Tommy Thayer, who replaced original member Ace Frehley in 2002 (session drummer Eric Singer officially took over for departed drummer Peter Criss in 2004), believes this to be the leanest, meanest Kiss incarnation yet.

"I don't think the band has ever sounded better," says Thayer, relaxing in between shows.

"The show is incredible, the visuals are fantastic and Paul has a renewed energy. We're all devoting 110 per cent of our time to this band."

Thayer is somewhat controversial amongst diehard Kiss cultists, due to the fact his stage persona is a direct crib of Frehley's trademark "Spaceman" character. But with a new studio album due out this fall, which is being produced by Stanley, the guitarist's status as a vital member of Kiss will be cemented once and for all.

"This is a killer album, totally rough and mean," says Thayer.

"This is a killer album, totally rough and mean ... There's no ballads, no filler, no bid to chase commercial chart success, it's just full throttle, straight up, unpretentious rock 'n' roll."

Tommy Thayer

"There's no ballads, no filler, no bid to chase commercial chart success, it's just full throttle, straight up, unpretentious rock 'n' roll, the heaviest since Love Gun (released during the act's popular peak in 1977). I'm just really, really excited about it. It's vintage Kiss."

Due in no small part to Simmons' unyielding efforts to mass market the Kiss brand onto everything from credit cards to coffins, Kiss has become virtually mythical, with three generations of fans now thrilling to the brand of pulpy, pyrotechnic hard rock.

"I think Kiss will continue to endure," Thayer believes. "We have parents, kids, grandparents all coming out to the shows. Kiss has become an institution, part of the collective pop culture psyche."

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Octomom's volcanic scare
Octomom Nadya Suleman's two-year-old son Caleb was rushed to the hospital Friday after gulping down his older brother's "volcano kit." Caleb vomited up the offending chemicals, which turned out to be mostly salt water, but Suleman called paramedics anyway. EONLINE.COM

New wave of aboriginal talent

MAUREEN LITTLEJOHN
for Metro Canada

A new surge of aboriginal talent is cresting across the country, following in the wake of icons such as playwright Thompson Highway, actor Graham Green, and singer Buffy Sainte-Marie.

Waawaate Fobister, a 25-year-old Anishnaabe artist from Grassy Narrows First Nation, swept the Dora Awards earlier this month with his debut play Agokwe.

The play scooped statuettes for outstanding production, new play, performance by a male principal, director, costume designer and lighting designer.

The one-man show, staged at Buddies in Bad Times theatre last year, focused on the attraction between two teenage Aboriginal boys.

Fobister, a traditional dancer, seamlessly played each character including the boys (one a hockey player, the other a grass dancer), an alcoholic mother and a flamboyant narrator.

"I always talk about what's important to me, which is my language, heritage and culture. It is not my goal to educate people, but they can get a taste of it in some of my work," explained Fobister in an interview from Big Grassy, where he teaches youth theatre and dance.

Here is a look at other artists who are leading the crest:

• Crystal Shawanda, a bluesy country singer from Wikwemikong reservation on Manitoulin Island, has been taking the radio waves by storm since she released her debut album Dawn of a New Day last year.

It reached No. 2 and 16 on the country music charts in Canada and the U.S., respectively.

Shawanda cleaned up at the 2008 Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, winning five awards including Best Album of the Year.

This weekend she plays the Mother Earth Festival on Georgina Island and on Aug. 20 she is at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre.

• Since collaborating with Icelandic artist Bjork in 2004, Inuit throat singer Tanya Tagaq Gillis has been hypnotizing audiences internationally.

The Nunavut singer has performed with Kronos Quartet and Scottish fusion band Shooglenifty.

She has won a total of four Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards and her recent album Auk/Blood was nominated for a Juno award this year.

On Aug. 22, she performs at Toronto's Planet IndigenUs Festival at Harbourfront Centre.

• Kevin Loring, a member of the Niaka'pmux First Nation in Lytton, B.C., premiered his first play, Where the Blood Mixes, at the Luminato festival in Toronto last year.

It will be performed in Vancouver at the Firehall Arts Centre during the 2010 Olympics.

Loring, also an actor, appeared in Hosanna at the Manitoba Theatre Centre and the film Pathfinder. He is the Playwright-in-Residence at the National Arts Centre for 2009-10.

• At age 37, Adam Beach has garnered more than 50 movie and TV credits. The Saulteaux actor, born on the Dog Creek reserve in Manitoba, starred in the films Flags of Our Fathers, Windtalkers, Smoke Singles and the made-for-TV movie Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee.

He was also Detective Chester Lake on 21 episodes of Law & Order: Special Victims Unit from 2007 through 2008.

FocusOn FirstNations

"I always talk about what's important to me, which is my language, heritage and culture.It is not my goal to educate people, but they can get a taste of it in some of my work."
Waawaate Fobister

NBC PHOTO

PHOTO HANDOUT

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORONTO STAR

Adam Beach, left, has more than 50 TV and film credits, while Waawaate Fobister, centre, has garnerd acclaim for his play Agokwe and throat singer Tanya Tagaq Gillis has been hypnotizing audiences.

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Five alive

Three of Michael Jackson's brothers — from left, Randy, Marlon, and Tito — plan to stage a Jackson 5 reunion for a Jamaican music festival as a tribute to the late King of Pop, according to online reports. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

LaToya to release song as tribute to Michael

MUSIC A song LaToya Jackson previously recorded to honour her family is now being released as a tribute to her brother Michael. The song Home is being made available on iTunes on July 28 by Ja-Tail Records and Bungalo Records. Ja-Tail founder Jeffre Phillips says Jackson's older sister had already finished a CD and was about to release a different song as her first single. While the album release was delayed indefinitely after Michael's death, the label decided to release Home to pay him homage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jackson's mom seeks clarification from court

Wants to know if she can challenge executors' authority without being disinherited

Michael Jackson's mother asked for a judge's ruling Friday on whether she can challenge the authority of two men named in her son's will as executors of his estate without being disinherited.

The filing does not formally challenge the appointment of attorney John Branca and music executive John McClain as executors of Michael Jackson's estate.

But a favorable ruling could pave the way for 79-year-old Katherine Jackson to seek control of her son's estate, which has an estimated value of more than $500 million US.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Katherine Jackson

A judge granted her temporary control over roughly 2,000 items taken from her son's Neverland Ranch and slated for auction, but her authority expired and was given to Branca and McClain. She had sought to control Jackson's estate, but that was before the singer's 2002 will was filed in Los Angeles.

It names Branca and McClain as Jackson's choice for co-executors of the will, and states his estate should be placed in a private trust.

Jackson's trust included a "no contest" clause that calls for anyone who challenges the will to be disinherited.

Katherine Jackson, her three grandchildren and unnamed charities are beneficiaries of the estate.

The filing states that Katherine Jackson's attorneys continue to confer with attorneys for McClain and Branca and no final decisions have been made.

"Mrs. Jackson and her counsel have not yet decided whether to object to the appointment of the named executors or to suggest an alternate appointment," the filing states.

A phone message left after business hours Friday for Paul Gordon Hoffman, an attorney representing Branca and McClain, was not immediately returned.

The filing was first reported by RadarOnline.com.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff will consider how to handle the filing at a hearing on Aug 3.

Lingering issues about Jackson's estate could be decided then, and the hearing will also focus on whether Katherine Jackson will be allowed to keep custody of her son's children, who range in ages from seven to 12.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Casting call
Rumour has it that the casting of Bilbo Baggins for The Hobbit may be announced next week at Comic-Con. Daniel Radcliffe, James McAvoy and David Tennant are said to be in the running, but filmmaker Peter Jackson says no announcement will be made. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Despite Emmy nods, Flight of the Conchords may be history

Exec expects show to return, actor doesn't sound so sure

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Last week, HBO series Flight of the Conchords picked up a surprising six Emmy nominations, and apparently, nobody was more shocked than one of the show's cast members.

"Wow, I didn't know they got that many," said Arj Barker, who plays pawnshop clerk Dave, while in Toronto performing at the Just For Laughs Festival.

"I don't take any credit for it. I feel privileged and lucky to be part of a show that's so successful. I did my little part but again, it's a little part."

Undoubtedly, the recent nominations will serve to boost the series' mainstream popularity and stoke shaky speculation regarding the show's future.

A quirky comedy centered around two naïve New Zealand musicians (Bret McKenzie, Jemaine Clement) trying to make it in Manhattan, the show's two leads have publicly stated that producing the second season was especially gruelling and it was "a good end to the show."

HBO may have other plans, however. President of west coast operations Michael Lombardo recently told an industry webzine that, after a break, he "fully expects them to be back in late 2010 or early 2011."

"You want to know the real word right now?" asked Barker when prodded for the inside scoop. "The show might not come back but Arj Barker is here to stay."

As elusive as that statement may seem, Barker's busy slate suggests a disappointing outlook for fans of the show. A popular standup comedian who's about to embark on a lengthy tour in Australia, Barker will also remain busy making his webisode series' Arj and Poopy ("basically they're just animated shorts of me and a farting cat") and recording with his rap group, The Sanchez Brothers.

IAN WILLMS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
Arj Barker appeared Friday at Massey Hall as part of the Just for Laughs comedy gala.

As well, Barker hopes to make his own waves when a Comedy Central special airs later this year, coinciding with an upcoming DVD release. Above all however, Barker hopes that Flight of the Conchords does return. After all, he's got a lot on the line. "I'd like to (act) more and I think I have a lot of potential — an untapped potential — especially if you've ever seen me act, you're like 'Wow, that potential is untapped.'"

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CSI's Sarah Sidle returns

Jorja Fox is returning to CSI as Sara Sidle. Fox will appear in the Season 10 premiere and additional episodes, says CBS. Viewers will "discover where life has taken Sara Sidle and what brings her back to the CSI team in Las Vegas." TVGUIDE.COM

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NBC turns back on The Listener

CANCELLED It seems NBC is no longer willing to listen to CTV's The Listener.

Halfway into its inaugural season, the U.S. network is pulling the show from its summer lineup, going instead with reruns of Law & Order starting July 30. Poor ratings are reportedly behind the decision, which will leave five episodes of the crime drama unaired in the United States. Christina Jennings, the show's Canadian producer, lashed out at NBC for failing to adequately promote the series. THE CANADIAN RPESS

Bridget Jones back for a third

FRANCHISE A spokesman for Universal Pictures says a third Bridget Jones movie is planned.

That means Renee Zellweger will likely revisit her Oscar-nominated role as the lovably kooky character in the franchise hit. Universal spokeswoman Damion Stene confirmed another film is in the works but did not respond when asked whether the 40-year-old Zellweger was on board.

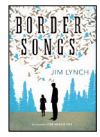
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cross-border temptation, tests

BookPicks

Border Songs

Author: Jim Lynch
Publisher: Random House
Price: $29.95 (Hardcover)



By reputation, Brandon Vanderkoop doesn't seem to fit the mould of a border officer. The shy, towering and dyslexic man would rather build birds nests and tend to animals than patrol the boundary of questionable sense between Washington and British Columbia that separates his native United States from Canada. But when his father pushes him to do it, hoping to quell his introversion, Vanderkoop becomes an unexpected ideal for the job, canny at spotting traffickers and illegal immigrants. His personal success is tested, however, when he discovers his cross-border Canadian crush Madeline is gardening a crop more potent than perennials.

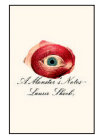
Gifts of War

Author: Mackenzie Ford
Publisher: Nan A. Talese
Price: $32 (Hardcover)

A battlefield pact breaks down in the historic fiction debut of London historian Mackenzie Ford, Gifts of War. Amid the 1914 Christmas truce during the First World War, enemies unite over a promise in the name of love. Wilhelm Wetzlar, fighting for the Germans, gives a photograph of his English fiancée Samantha to British soldier Hal Montgomery, hoping Montgomery will send word that he's alive. After he's discharged for injury, Montgomery pursues Sam but falls for her before he can share the news. Hiding his secret, Montgomery helps to hide the secret of Sam's newborn son's German descent by acting as the boy's father, in order to get to Sam.

A Monster's Notes

Author: Laurie Sheck
Publisher: Knopf
Price: $37 (Hardcover)



Pulitzer Prize-nominated poet Laurie Sheck reimagines Frankenstein's monster, in his own words, with her first novel, A Monster's Notes. Blending historical fact with plenty of creative fiction, Sheck describes how Frankenstein author Mary Shelley actually met the monster when she was just a girl, sitting near her mother's grave. From there, Sheck uses an experimental narrative style to explore themes of isolation and aesthetic through imaginary letters written by Shelley and the monster's reflection on his own existence. The monster ruminates on everything from leprosy to the piano prowess of composer John Cage in this account of a once-voiceless creation.

— BRIAN COULTON/ FOR METRO CANADA

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
7/20/09	265	353	2	TVO	Time Team		The Best of The Agenda		Child Genius 2		Malcolm and Barbara		Best-Agenda
primetime	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House "The Softer Side"		Lie to Me "Unchained"		The Unit		News
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Triple Sensation (N)		Just for Laughs		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		The Bachelorette "The Men Tell All" (N)				(10:02) Dating in the Dark		CityNews
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Law & Order		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CTV News
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	How I Met	Engagement	The Soup (N)	Wildest TV	Final 24 (N)		News/Eleven
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama été	Esprit	Sur la Piste de	Villages	*Le Feu follet* ★★ (1963, Drame) Maurice Ronet, Lena Skeria.				Esprit
	-	-	14	-	Raymond	According-Jim	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Religion
	213	326	15	SUN	Stargate SG-1		One Tree Hill (HDTV)		Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	Dateline NBC		Hitchcock Pres
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	How I Met	Engagement	Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Great American Road Trip (N)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		The Wanted (N)		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Bachelorette "The Men Tell All" (N)				(10:02) Dating in the Dark		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	The Road to Avonlea		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	House "The Softer Side"		Lie to Me "Unchained"		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow		History Detectives (N)		Make 'em Laugh: Funny		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	One Tree Hill (HDTV)		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	One Tree Hill
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Our World	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Tragedy of the Space Shuttle		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports		Billionaire Next Door, Access		Warren Buffett: Billionaire		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	MLB Baseball Baltimore Orioles at New York Yankees. (HDTV) (Live)						Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	Boxing		World Poker Tour				SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	411	457	58	OLN	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Cycling (N)					Bounty Hunter	Cycling
	417	406	81	SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Performance Engineering		SuperCars	SuperCars	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy (N)
family	551	542	25	YTV	The Next Star 2		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	League-Evil	Zixx Level	The Next Star 2		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Jimmy Two	Total Drama	6TEEN "2-4-1"	6TEEN	Futurama	Punch	Robot Chicken	American Dad	Moral Orel
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	The Suite Life	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Style by Jury	Friends	How Clean	Kim	Love It or List It		*The Good Witch* (2008, Drama) Catherine Bell.		
	570	580	29	MM	One Tree Hill		Degrassi: TNG	Instant Star	Shot at Love-Tila Tequila		MuchNews	Video on Trial	One Tree Hill
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Intervention "Allison"		Intervention (HDTV) (N)		Obsessed "Marie; Matt"		The Cleaner
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	L'Ispettore Giusti				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!				Entourage	Gene Simmons	I'm a Celebrity
	575	583	38	CMT	Dallas Cheerleaders		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Greatest
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Cashing In	Kink in Hair	*Family in Hiding* (2006, Suspense) Brenda Strong.				House
	620	523	40	BVO	Circle of Champions		Aida Franco Zeffirelli produces Verdi's opera.						Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Newlywed	Newlywed	Nearly Dead	Nearly Dead	In Laws	In Laws	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Sandblast"		History's Secrets		Turning Points		NCIS "Sandblast"		Marine Mach.
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Mike Marino: N.J. Bad Boy		Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	Marriage	My First Place	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	*The Weather Man* ★★ (2005, Comedy-Drama)				Seinfeld
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Menace II Society* ★★★ (1993, Drama) Tyrin Turner.				Harlem Heights	Harlem Heights	Movie
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		*Earthstorm* (2006, Science Fiction) Stephen Baldwin.				Torchwood: Children of Earth		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	MTV Cribs	After	MTV News	Cribs	The Real World		16 and Pregnant (N)		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Once a Thief		Carlawood (N)	Prod. Parker	Ground Up		Are You Smarter		Weekend
	603	561	56	FOOD	Chef at Home	Chuck-Day Off	Food Jammers	Glutton-Punish.	Food Detective	Get on Plate	At the Table	At the Table	Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Green Grass	Summer Wine	Conspiracy Theory		Galileo's Sons		Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Canada's Next Top Model		Tonight Show-Conan O'Brien		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101	TVA	Les Gags	Sketch Show	Laura Cadieux	Km/h (SC)	Monk (HDTV) (SC)		TVA 22 heures	Juste pour rire	Sucré-salé
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Idealist: James Beveridge		The Closer "Homewrecker"			Passion	Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	Stargate Atlantis		Sanctuary "Revelations"		Durham County (N)		Nurse Jackie	Penn & Teller	Dexter
	305	612	306	PIX	(7:15) *Louis the 19th* ★★★ (1994, Comedy)				*Blue Velvet* ★★★ (1986, Suspense) Kyle MacLachlan.				*Sleeping Dogs*

critics'corner

Triple Sensation

The eight remaining contestants reflect on their journey so far as they move from master classes to workshop presentations, performing group dance numbers, songs and scenes from plays with coaching from Adrian Noble and Sergio Trujillo. At the end, two of the hopefuls are sent home. 8 PM on CBC

Two and a Half Men

Convinced that Alan is not appreciated by his family, Melissa asks him to live with her and her mother, but the domestic situation quickly takes a perverse turn in "David Copperfield Slipped Me a Roofie." 9 PM on ACH-B CBS

Dating in the Dark

Is love truly blind? That's the question at the heart of this new reality series in which three men and three women share a house in which they are sequestered from the opposite sex apart from an opportunity to "date" in a completely dark room. After several days of this dating, each participant will pick one member to be revealed in the light. 10:02 PM on ABC CITY

In brief

ADAPTATION Russell Crowe is in the early stages of negotiations to reprise the role of Jack Aubrey as a British sea captain in a new movie version from the Master&Commander series of novels. Crowe said that a script based mostly on a novel of Patrick O'Brian's 20-novel series had been written, but that discussions were at a very early stage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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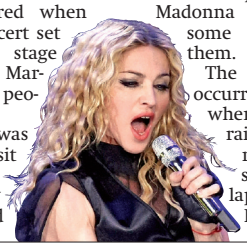
Fred finds love
It's wedding bells for Limp Bizkit frontman Fred Durst and girlfriend Ester Nazarov. Durst, 38, tweeted on Thursday, "cheers to the universe from me and my lovely wife Ester Durst!! We are now one and complete." PEOPLE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Madonna to visit injured

TRAGEDY Madonna continues to pay tribute to those killed or injured when part of her concert set collapsed on stage workers at a Marseilles stadium, people.com reports.

The singer was scheduled to visit some workers yesterday, city officials told People. The injured are in three local hospitals, and Madonna will visit some or all of them.



The accident occurred July 16 when a crane raising the roof of the stage collapsed. A French lighting technician, Charles Criscenzo, 53, was killed on the stage, and Charles Prow, 23, from Great Britain, died shortly after in hospital. At least eight other workers, some part of Madonna's travelling stage crew, were hospitalized. An investigation has been launched to determine the cause of the accident. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Exhausted Ne-Yo speaks out

PUSHED TOO HARD Ne-Yo has spoken out after walking offstage during a concert Thursday, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer told fans he wasn't feeling well at the start of his Manchester show. Fans watched as the sweat-drenched star struggled to move and propped himself up on a table before exiting the stage for a break.

A tearful Ne-Yo then reappeared, telling the audience, "I've never not completed a show, I've never done this before."

On his blog, Ne-Yo explained: "I have an issue with not knowing when to say enough is enough, so last night in Manchester, my body said it for me.

"For the last five days I've been dealing with a sinus infection. I paid it no real mind, and kept on going, like I always do. My voice couldn't take it."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tom shoulda put a ring on it

BEYONCÉ'S BIGGEST FAN Tom Cruise was spotted getting into a Beyoncé Knowles concert in Los Angeles recently, according to People magazine. Cruise reportedly started dancing to Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It), re-enacting the choreography Knowles made famous in her video for the single. "Everyone was laughing and taking pictures," a source told the magazine.

GETTY IMAGES

METRO WORLD NEWS

Brit's new man?

OPTIONS Britney Spears is reportedly dating her agent, Jason Trawick, but she recently took a break from her tour to spend some time with producer Dallas Austin.

The pair got together at Austin's house in Atlanta, where "it was just the two of them for a few nights," a source told Page Six. But Austin's rep said are simply friends.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Janet and Jermaine split?

TOUGH FEW WEEKS Noticeably absent from Michael Jackson's memorial service on July 7? Janet Jackson's longtime music exec boyfriend, Jermaine Dupri, usmagazine.com reports.

And for good reason: "His friends are telling people it's over," a source told Us Weekly. Echoed another: "They have been moving in different directions for a while."

And why did the seven-year relationship end? "You shouldn't mix business with pleasure," a mutual pal explained. (Dupri produced several tracks on Jackson's last two CDs.) "Janet felt their lives were too crossed and they should have kept things separate."

And, they were polar opposites: "Jermaine likes to be out there, mingling with everybody, and Janet's more shy."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lauren slams former BFF Heidi

FIGHTING WORDS In the August issue of Harper's Bazaar, Lauren Conrad takes Heidi and Spencer Pratt to task over their fame-seeking ways — and her former BFF's boob job.

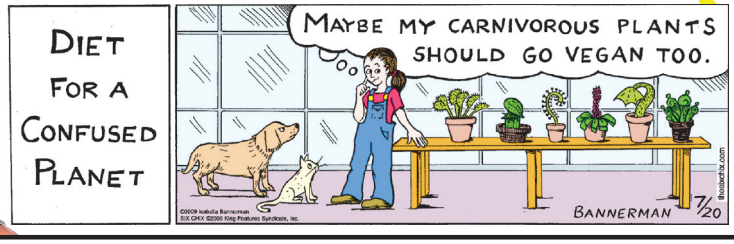
When asked why Heidi decided to pose in Playboy, Conrad slyly referred to a breast enlargement, saying, "They're not going to pay for themselves."

Her digs didn't stop there.

"I don't call magazines and let them know about things so they can write stories," she said of the Pratts. "There was never an incentive to keep doing The Hills so I could get into (Hollywood club) Les Deux." METRO NEWS SERVICES

SixChix

For more cartoons, visit metronews.ca



Hollywood hotel bomb scare

CLOSE CALL While police investigated a bomb scare at the Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles, actors Katherine Heigl and Gerard Butler were forced to evacuate along with 400 guests, people.com reports.

Butler, one eyewitness told People, posed for pictures with members of the AC Milan soccer team, in town to play the Los Angeles Galaxy Sunday. Heigl, barely recognizable with her hair dyed red, was seen leaving the hotel during the 1:45 p.m. evacuation. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Producer poo-poos Mischa

ON THE OUTS While there's still no word on why actress Mischa Barton was placed under psychiatric care, her absence had its effects.

Barton was unable to attend the premiere of her film, Homecoming, last week, which didn't sit well with producer Bingo Gubelmann.

"It's frustrating, but I'm not going to sot her and trash her," he told Us Weekly. "I don't want to be known as the producer that will turn on any actress at the drop of a hat." When asked why he'd picked Barton for the film, he rolled his eyes and said, "It's hard to remember."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Kiefer's legal dates delayed

LEGAL WOES Kiefer Sutherland's Friday trial date for allegedly head-butting fashion designer Jack McCullough was postponed. Though the two resolved their differences, the 24 star was still expected to appear before a judge. The district attorney involved in the case says the trial has been postponed until further notice, according to Hollyscoop.

METRO WORLD NEWS

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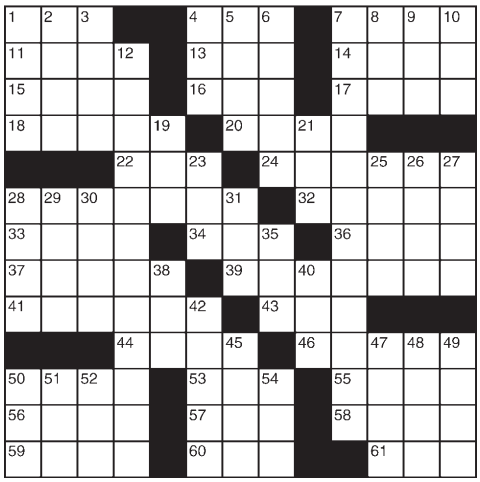


Crossword across

1 Feathery neckpiece
4 Small ammunition
7 Rope
11 Felonious flights
13 A billion years
14 Do as you're told
15 Buckeye State
16 Excessively
17 Not pre-recorded
18 They get in the whey
20 Aspic creation
22 Intention
24 South American prairies
28 Santa's runway
32 Woo
33 Loosen
34 Satchel
36 Incite
37 Corpulent
39 On the — (discreetly)
41 Shredded
43 Diamond stick?
44 Squad
46 Carries on
50 Greek vowel
53 Dog's hand
55 Enjoying greatly
56 New Zealand bird
57 Time of your life?
58 iPod model
59 Carolina college
60 Cover
61 Pale

Crossword down

1 United nations
2 Hawaiian island
3 Eastern potentate
4 Wager
5 Prosperous period
6 Pry
7 2003 Civil War movie
8 Kimono closer
9 Gun the engine
10 Decorate Easter eggs
12 Malt-shop setup
19 Perch
21 Varnish ingredient
23 Unruly group
25 Knitting stitch
26 Jason's ship
27 Hasenpfeffer, e.g.
28 Oxidation result
29 Aware of
30 Stench
31 Cushion
35 Sailor
38 Calendar abbr.
40 Series of skirmishes
42 Pontifical
45 Creche trio
47 Rodents do it
48 Sicilian volcano
49 Any time now
50 Mamie's man
51 Lubricate
52 Pair
54 Marry

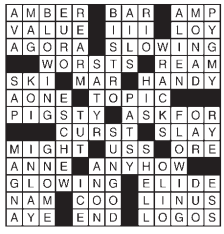
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		1	8	5		4		9
5		4	7					2
	2							
7		9			4			
		6				3		
			1			7		8
							1	
8					1	5		3
2		3		7	9	8		

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



1	5	3	9	6	8	4	2	7
9	4	7	2	3	5	8	1	6
6	8	2	1	7	4	3	9	5
7	3	4	5	9	2	1	6	8
8	6	1	3	4	7	9	5	2
2	9	5	8	1	6	7	4	3
4	1	8	6	2	3	5	7	9
3	7	6	4	5	9	2	8	1
5	2	9	7	8	1	6	3	4

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Coronation Chicken

INGREDIENTS:

1 chicken, about 3 lbs
1 onion, sliced
1 large carrot, coarsely chopped
1 celery stalk, chopped
6 black peppercorns, lightly crushed
1 bay leaf
1 large banana
2 zucchinis, sliced lengthwise with vegetable peeler into thin strips
Sprigs fresh mint to garnish

MANGO AND RAISIN PILAF:

2 cups basmati rice, well rinsed
1/3 cup raisins
1-3/4 oz dried mango, chopped
2/3 cup pecans

CURRY DRESSING:

5 oz plain low-fat yogurt
5 tbsp low-fat mayonnaise
2 tbsp korma curry paste
Grated rind of 1 large lemon
1 tbsp fresh lemon juice
2 tbsp snipped fresh chives
2 tbsp chopped fresh mint
2 tbsp chopped parsley
Pepper to taste

METHOD:

1. Place chicken in large pot and cover with water. Add onion, carrot and celery and bring almost to boil; skim any fat off surface. When bubbles begin to break through surface, reduce to simmer. Add peppercorns and bay leaf; simmer 45 minutes or until juices run clear from chicken thigh when pierced.
2. Remove chicken from liquid and set aside to cool. Pour cooking liquid through fine sieve into measuring cup. Discard vegetables.
3. For pilaf, place 2-1/3 cups strained cooking liquid and rice in pot. Stir in raisins and mango. Bring to boil; reduce heat, cover and simmer, according to package instructions, until all liquid has been absorbed and rice is tender.
4. Remove rice from heat and set aside, covered, 5 minutes. Transfer rice to bowl to cool completely.
5. For curry dressing, place yogurt, mayonnaise, curry paste, lemon rind and juice in bowl; mix well. Stir in chives, mint, parsley and pepper.
6. When chicken is cool, cut into bite-sized pieces and fold into curry dressing. Slice banana and add to chicken mixture. Stir pecans into rice pilaf and spoon onto 6 plates. Arrange zucchini ribbons on pilaf and top with chicken mixture. Garnish with fresh mint sprigs and serve.

SERVES 6

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.com

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Things look a lot worse than they actually are, especially concerning family issues, but in a few days your outlook will brighten considerably.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Someone will wonder aloud if you know what you are doing today. Convince them you are still in control: Don't just tell them, find ways to show them.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You know what needs to be done, so get on and do it. You can easily push yourself a bit harder today: Before you know it, your task will be finished.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
The planets warn that others will find out what you're trying to keep from them — so why not say what you've been up to? Don't hide it, flaunt it.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Make allowances for those who seem reluctant to follow you on your next big adventure. Maybe they've got more to lose from taking risks than you do.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
If you're a typical Virgo it's not in your nature to preen. But it's in your interests to have many eyes on you today, so ensure the world knows you exist.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Career issues have worried you a lot of late, but in a few days you won't care because your personal affairs will be so much more exciting.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You may be reserved by nature, but make the most of the sun's final few days in your fellow water sign of Cancer to promote your own interests.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
You're on the verge of one of the most exciting times of the year. Focus on all the good things in your life: There are plenty, if you care to look.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
The more people understand what you hope to acquire, the more likely they are to help you get it around the time of Wednesday's solar eclipse.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Lately it's seemed as if you had a mountain to climb, but you kept at it and now you're on the brink of a triumph. Shout about your accomplishment.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Life has been good lately, but start planning for a more challenging phase. You'll have to double your efforts in the next few weeks, especially at work.

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